

1. In the third section of John 17 - Jesus prays for those who will become believers in the future.
2. Jesus prays for unity in the body. (verses 20-26)
3. Paul spoke of unity in his letter to the church at Ephesus. (Ephesians 4:3-6)
4. The requests made by Jesus in this powerful pray can be summed up in 7 phrases:
 - A. "keep them in your name" (v11)
 - B. "have my joy fulfilled in themselves" (v13)
 - C. "keep them from the evil one" (v15)
 - D. "sanctify them in the truth" (v17)
 - E. "that they may all be one" (v21)
 - F. "that they be with me where I am" (v24)
 - G. "that they may see my glory" (v24)
5. What then should be our expectation when we pray?
6. Prayer is how God gives us many of the unimaginable things He has for us.
7. It is not an easy thing to pray. To go through the motion seems useless to many. (Ephesians 3:20; Jeremiah 33:3; James 5:16)
8. Where there is an absence of prayer - there is an absence of divine power. (Luke 11:9-10 and James 4:2-3)
9. Asking is the rule of the kingdom. (John 16:24)
10. There are some things that we need from God - both personally and for the church - that we cannot receive apart from prayer.
11. One of the purposes of prayer is to bring our hearts to trust in God's wisdom - not in our own.
12. We are to pray with confidence and hope. (Romans 8:28)
13. Charles Spurgeon wrote; "Prayer is the great door of spiritual blessing - and if you close it - you shut out His favor."
14. Psalm 107:26-28 and Revelation 8:1-6
15. Prayer is for God's glory and for our benefit, in that order. Everything that God does, everything that God allows and ordains, is in the supreme sense for His glory.
16. We pray to glorify God, but we also pray in order to receive the benefits of prayer from His hand.
17. Prayer is for our benefit, even in light of the fact that God knows the end from the beginning. It is our privilege to bring everything of our finite existence into the glory of His infinite presence.