

Recap from two weeks ago.

John 17:1

*1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.*

John 17 gives us some guidelines to follow for effective praying.

1. *Posture is not important.*
2. *We pray to the Father.*
3. *We must be yielded to the Father's will.*
4. *The glory of God should be our primary concern. "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.*
5. *We must pray in faith.*

*True prayer is the by-product of our personal "love relationship" with the Father.*

John 17:2-3

*2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.*

*3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

The Father gave the Son authority.

1. Authority is the right to act, to exercise power.
2. The authority of Jesus.
3. The Son gives eternal life to those who are given to Him.

1. Authority is the right to act, to exercise power.

These days the world seems to be **filled** with so called **authorities**.

The trouble is, we have rightly become **sceptical**.

- Many of these experts do **not** deliver what they **promise**.
- Authorities disagree among themselves, often don't practice what they preach, rarely admit mistakes, and seem to have forgotten the grace of humility.

2. The authority of Jesus.

- **His words and actions matched.** What he said and what he did were in harmony. He taught what he lived and lived what he taught.
- **The people responded.**
- Jesus is seen as the person of authority because he awakens an echo of God that lies deep inside us.

Whenever he speaks, whenever he acts, his **authority** comes from **God**.

### 3. The Son gives eternal life to those who are given to Him.

But what is "eternal life"?

- Eternal life is not endless time. It is not a quantity of **time** but a quality of **experience**.
- This gift of eternal life comes through what Jesus called "**being born again**".

*3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."*

*4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"*

Our first birth was a **physical** birth, but the second birth that brings salvation is a **spiritual** birth

*14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

- Some gifts are given out of **obligation** or **guilt**, or even **pride**; but eternal life is given as the expression of the Father's great **love** for us.

**Have you received the gift of eternal life?**

**Are you sharing the good news of this gift with others**