



# WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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June 2023



## FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

*Hello,*

*I welcome you to this new month and present to you June 2023 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Praying Believers' High Priest (Part II)".*

*Watchman's Trumpet Part I concentrated on Jesus' prayer for Himself but this edition focuses on His desire for His disciples. These desires include their receiving, retaining and enjoying eternal life, their unity, safety from the evil one, sanctification by the truth of His word, participation in Christ's eternal glory and continuing revelation of God's name to them. He joined the believers of all ages with the eleven (after departure of Judas Iscariot) as He presented these prayer points to God.*

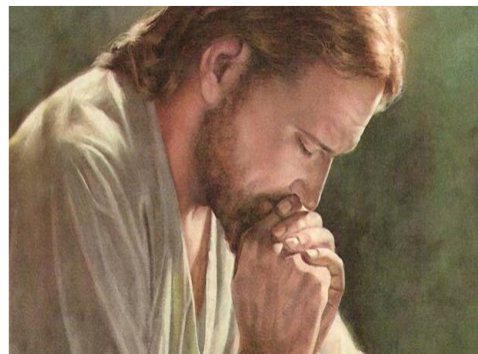
*These prayer points revealed how much He valued us and cares for His own. These care and concern continues even today as Jesus continues to intercede for us before God's throne in Heaven. The understanding of this unending priesthood of Christ for the church is the secret of our persistence in the midst of all odds in the world. It is the motivation for our diligence and steadfastness, the evidence that we are not orphans, we are not alone; and indeed, that He is with us until the end of the world.*

*Finally, John 17 did not only communicate desires, it indirectly instructs men especially believers on how to please God and abide continuously in the centre of His will. For instance, Jesus' prayer revealed that the early disciples received believed and kept (or obeyed) the word of God preached by Christ. It is the foundation of their relationship with Christ, the basis of His intimacy with them, the insurance premium of their future with God and future of Glory that Christ promised them; it is the same with us.*

*It is God's received, believed and kept word that will determine how successful our Christian journey will be on earth. According to the Lord in His prayer, the received, believed and kept word fostered their unity with one another and with the Godhead; so it will do for us. It will protect us from the evil one, sanctify and consecrate us for divine service. My prayer is that these and other blessings will be ours as we read this edition of Watchman's Trumpet in Jesus name, Welcome!*

## THE FINISHED ASSIGNMENT

*"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have*



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*manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word" John 17:4-6*

Jesus glorified God by finishing the assignment or work that God sent Him to the world to do. God expects nothing less from us. We must be finishers. We must aim at perfection and completeness in all that we do for God. The starting point is to eliminate distraction, self-interests, self-glory or vainglory and pride from our lives and from all that we do. We must pray often as we work and commit ourselves and whatever we do for God into His hands.

We shall consider four subtopics:

1. Priority of profitable finishers
2. Prayer for eleven abiding disciples
3. Manifestation of God's name
4. Heaven's ambassador among men



### 3. Priority of profitable finishers

*"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."* **John 17:4-5**

*"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* **1Corinthians 10:31**

The things we ask from God in prayers should be things that make us profitable or more profitable to God not the things that magnifies or promotes us. Our prayers at the post of duty like that of Christ should involve a pledge to absolutely do the will of God and complete or finish His work assigned to us even when commitment to that will takes us through valleys of trials, troubles, temptations, suffering and death.

To succeed in doing so we must deal with self. Those who want God glorified in their life must relinquish self and obey Him implicitly. Like Jesus, glory and honor are reserved for true believers. But these will only come to us if we glorify Him in all that we do while we are here on assignment for Him.

### 4. Prayer for eleven abiding disciples

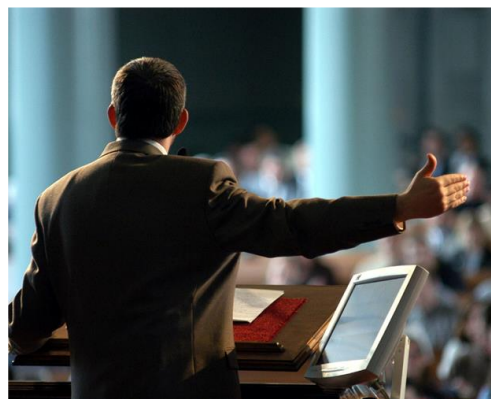
*"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."* **John 7:9**

The second segment of this prayer, verses 6-19 recorded Christ's prayer for His disciples - the remaining eleven disciples after the departure of Judas Iscariot. Four subjects resonate in this segment. The first was Christ's oneness with God in all things, the second was rehearsal of His stewardship while with the disciples, the third was a rehearsal of the disciples' response to His ministry among them and the fourth was His desire for these disciples' preservation even after He had left them.

### 1. Manifestation of God's name

*"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee."* **John 17:6-7**

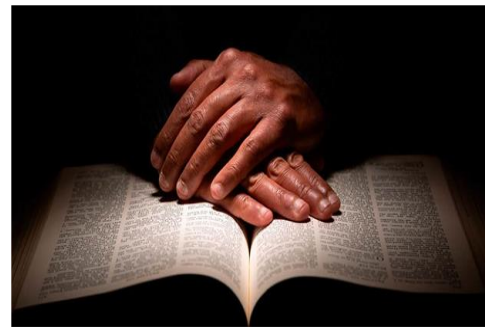
Jesus told God how He manifested God's name among His disciples who He considered as God's gift to Him from among the people in the world. Jesus stated that they originally belong to God and God gave them to Him. Next, He described the disciples' response to that manifestation; they kept God's word that they received from Christ, which Christ Himself received from God, obeyed and practiced. The disciples received and practiced it as God's direct word to them. They received both the teachings of Christ and His person as God-sent. They acknowledged Christ to be God's faithful Apostle and messenger to them Hebrews 3:1. We are to do the same.



### 2. Heaven's Ambassador among men

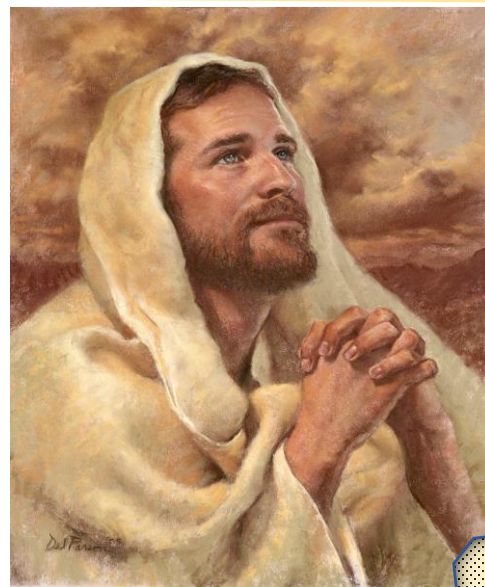
*"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."* **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

Jesus left no one in doubt regarding the fact that His mission from heaven to the world to offer sacrifice for the sins of humanity was not carried out strictly on His own initiative. He was sent. The statement *"Thou sent me"* recurs about 5 times in Christ's prayer- John 17:8, 18, 21, 23-25.



By this repetition, Jesus wanted it strongly impressed on His disciples' mind that He was on earth on God's errand and assignment. The implication of this was that those who accept Him accept God, while those who reject and oppose Him reject and oppose God. He emphasized this in John 5:19, 30, 36, 7:28, 8:28-29, 10:37, 38, 12:49.

We can say the same about every minister that is on assignment for God. Those who received them received God and those who rejected and oppose them reject and oppose God. We can easily know that they come from God because their lifestyle and messages will align with the scriptures. The ministers themselves also need to hold on to this conviction and the testimonies that they have that they are God-sent. It will insulate their faith from attack on the day Satan and temptations comes calling. It will also enhance their authority in prayer and the result 1Kings 18:36. It should be clear too to our associates and those close to us that we are God-sent. The conviction will enhance their submission and cooperation.





## ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

## WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



### *Prayer Points - For June 2023*

1. Thank God for the atonement and Christ’s intercessory ministry
2. Thank God for the gift and hope of eternal life that we have through Jesus Christ
3. Pray for grace to follow Christ’s model of prayer
4. Pray that the priorities of Christ in prayer will be our priorities
5. Pray for fruitfulness of preaching in all those who listen to His word in our meetings
6. Pray for success in all assignment we undertake for God
7. Pray for sanctification and preservation in faith
8. Pray for continuing blessing of administration and participation in church ordinances
9. Pray that God will be glorified in our lives and in all we do
10. Pray for survival, sustenance, spiritual progress of all true believers and preservation in faith till the end  
“..... *men ought always to pray, and not to faint*,” **Luke 18:1**

**May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!**

**Watchman Prayer Hour** holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.



## GOD'S GIFT OF MEN TO CHRIST

*"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them."* **John 17:6, 9-10**

Apart from the testimony and conviction of sent messengers of God that they are sent by Him, the ministers should also recognize the fact that those who turn up for their services and submit to their teachings and instructions, walking and living in obedience to it are God-sent. Specifically for Christ's disciples, Christ selected them after an all-night prayer to God. It was therefore clear that He received them from God.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Preserved by God and guided to find Christ
2. God's full attributes manifested by Christ
3. Prayer for disciples protection and preservation

### 1. Preserved by God and guided to find Christ

*"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word."* **John 17:6**

*"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: ..."* **John 6:44**

These disciples belong to God originally by virtue of creation and sustenance. He created them and kept them alive until they have encounter with Christ.



God so ordered it that they heard Christ preach John 1:35-51 and saw His miracles. They became convinced and converted, and they followed Him. Believers need to understand this too. It will surprise us to know that many of our activities, encounters and relationship daily after committing our lives to Christ for continues oversight and care are products of divine providence. With deep thoughts and consideration we may come to the realization that our husbands, wives, children, employers, neighbours, and colleagues are God-sent most especially if we prayed and involve God in making choices and taking decisions that brought us to them or brought them to us. Significant evidence that Christ's disciples are God-sent and chosen by God is that they remained with Him when others walk away John 6:67-71. They believed that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah Christ and Saviour of the world Mathew 16:15-20, John 6:69. The evidence of their faith in Him was their obedience to His teaching.

### 2. God's full attributes manifested by Christ

*"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."* **Colossians 2:9**

According to Jesus in His prayer, He manifested God's name to His disciples and prayed that the name of God that they see Him manifest and received from Him will keep them. Everything that God is we find revealed and encapsulated in His name. Jesus displayed the full attributes of God, that was the manifestation; His manifestation of God's name. Name in Bible days presents all that a person is. Manifesting the name of God by Christ to the disciples is about revealing or manifesting God's full attributes, counsel and designs.

He practically demonstrated what God would have done if He walked among men.

### 3. Prayer for disciples' protection and preservation

*"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."* **John 17:11-12, 14**

Jesus prayed that God should keep the disciples through His name. He explained that the keeping He had in mind is not that God should remove or relocate them from the world but that God should protect them from evil or from the influence of the evil one. The love of God, intercession of Christ and continuous presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit works together to keep believers in a saved stated and state of grace.

Jesus gave two reasons for the necessity of His disciples' safekeeping and by extension the safekeeping of all believers. The first was activities of evil or the evil one and secondly hatred of men. We will need the protective power of the God to overcome these enemies especially if like the disciples we have assignments to carry out for our Lord in this hostile domain and will not be quitting immediately after our conversion. By praying that God should keep the disciples through His name, the Lord was stating that all that God represents should work for them and keep them away from harm or alarm, and keep them on the path of duty.



## DISCIPLES' SAFETY AND SUCCESS IN MISSION ASSIGNMENT

*"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."* John 17:15, 17-21

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Protection from attack and distraction
2. Believers' joy amidst turmoil and life's uncertainties
3. The strength of Christian joy

### 1. Protection from attack and distraction

*"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."* John 17:15

*"And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee."* Jeremiah 1:9

Demonic attack, Satan's interference and persecution from antagonistic men are a great source of distress to the church of Christ in every age and today. Their battles against Christ and God's people in the world are relentless. Christ's doctrine separates men from the world. Even though the unbelieving world



is a hostile environment for a true believer, the Lord will not want us to quit in a hurry until we have faithfully and effectively given our witness and fully testified to the possibility and power of godliness in such world. Jesus prayed for God's protective cover while our assignments are underway. Answer to His prayer implies freedom from sin, temptations and snares of wicked men and evil spirits in the world. Our preservation is in itself a testimony to the greatness of the power of God who called us into His kingdom, who saved us, and whose errand we run.

### 2. Believers' joy amidst life's turmoil and uncertainties

*"And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves."* John 17:13

*"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."* John 15:11

Jesus in His prayer revealed the possibility of joy and rejoicing by His disciples in the face of life's daunting challenges and trial of faith. But this kind of joy He described as *"my joy"* that is, a joy that finds its root in the Lord Himself, in His institutions and ordinances. According to the Lord, this kind of joy will increase proportionately until it becomes full. *"... that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves"* John 17:13. John 15:11 contain a similar revelation. We hereby learn that we shall always have reasons to rejoice for as long as we concentrate on the Lord and all that He

is to us and not unstable life's ephemerals. We are instructed to always seek joy in the Lord, in what the Lord Jesus Christ is to us and in what we are to Him and in Him. When we do so, we shall find joy, a kind of joy that comes with full realization of our potentials in Christ, in what it means to be in Christ, realization of what it means for Christ to be in us and for us to be joined together with Christ in an eternal inseparable union Romans 8:35-39. This kind of joy transcends and outlasts every earthly experience good or bad.

### 2. The strength of Christian joy

*"And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."* Acts 5:40-41

Christian joy derives its strength from Christ's death, burial and resurrection. By it and in it we have our hope in life and in death. It is through it we have assurance of great reward, which shall compensate all our sacrifices and earthly labour. Thus, and by it we rejoice in tribulation and count it an honor to suffer for the name of Christ Acts 5:28-42.



True Christian joy does not reside in any secular, physical or material thing and accomplishment. It is a joy that come from abiding in Christ and remaining in fellowship with Him and with one another in spite of all odds that the world may throw at us as we do so. Until the end.



## SANCTIFICATION BY THE TRUTH AND PARTAKING IN DIVINE GLORY

*“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”*

**John 17:17-19, 24**

Furthermore, Jesus prayed for the sanctification of His disciples. To sanctify is to wash clean, purge and purify something or someone from all forms of impurities, by so doing set them apart for God and holy use. *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* John 17:17. The believed, received and practiced word set men apart for God. John 17:17, 1Thesalonians 5:23 - 45, John 15:3, Ephesians 5:26, 1Timothy 4:5. It turns natural earthly men into God's men, and heaven-minded men. God's word prayerful received, internalized and practiced sanctifies. The more we understand God's word and obey it, the more Holy Spirit works in our hearts and lives, making us more lovely and godly in character as well as more purposeful and useful to God and in His kingdom.

Sanctification washes our hearts and frees it from all defiling or polluting attitudes, instincts, motives, desires, interests, feelings and inclinations towards sin and evil, and grants us all that is needful morally to get God's work done. Most times, ministers' dedication to duty varies proportionately with the level of personal purity and walk in holiness that they possess.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Christ's model of sanctification and commission of the sanctified
2. Eternal glory of oneness with the Triune God
3. Focus of Heaven minded saints and Christ's faith in His Disciples' future

### 1. Christ's model of sanctification and commission of the sanctified

*“And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”* **John 17:19**

*“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”* **Acts 13:2**

Jesus himself sanctified himself for the sake of His disciples John 17:19. He wholly consecrated His life and time to God and for the purpose for which God sent him to the world. This achieved three purposes: first, they see in Him a picture of what it means to be totally dedicated to God and His service. He by His life and through His choices presented to them a true role model and worthy leader to follow.



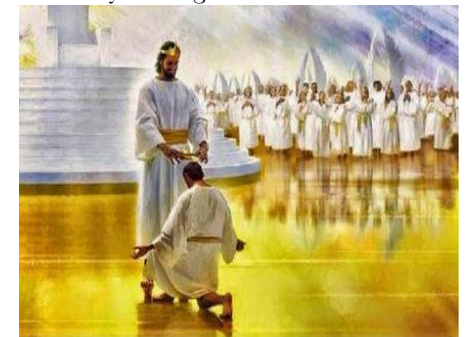
Secondly, He by personal exemplary living presented to them and to all believers a yard-stick or standard for measurement of true sanctification. Thirdly, Christ's sanctification and our sanctification in answer to His prayer facilitates our oneness with Him, with God the Father and with the Holy Spirit. Sanctification makes divine-human fellowship and partnership possible. This fellowship and partnership is absolutely essential for success in divine commission.

## 2. Eternal glory from oneness with the Triune God

*“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”* **John 17:20, 21**

*“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”* **John 17:24**

Closely associated with Jesus' prayer for sanctification was His prayer believers' oneness with Him, with God and with one another. Christ's prayer in John 17 goes beyond denominational affiliation. We may not understand or appropriately apply the lessons of this prayer or even appreciate God's continual answers to them until we understand, accept and believe the fact that there is only one Christian church, which comprises of all genuine, true and sincere believers in Christ all over the world - The universal and invisible church. They comprises of people in every nation on earth and dispensation who truly belong to Christ.



*“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”* **John 17:20-21**

The evidence of the genuineness of their affiliation and relationship with Christ, with God and with others all over the world is their receiving and keeping God's word John 17:6, 8. *"Receiving and keeping"* as used in this text implies implicit faith in the scriptures demonstrated by comprehensive and wholehearted obedience to God and His word as taught by Christ; and later by the Apostles. It is for these people that Jesus prayed.

This prayer excluded sinning nominal Christians or backsliders like Judas Iscariot. It is not for sons and daughters of perditions only interested in material gains from allegiance to Christ, traitors to the Gospel, to God and to their conscience. These can never be one with God or with Christ in the manner described in John 17. Satan their master will not allow them. This is partly reasons why many ecumenical efforts among the physical church and denominations do not last for a long time.

Christ's prayer in John 17 is not for enemies of God's people and His kingdom. It is not for unserious Christians or unbelievers. It is not for anyone in any denomination who has not repented, departed from sin and making deliberate attempt through Holy Spirit's help to abstain from all appearances of evil. It is not for a physical assembly, congregation or gathering anywhere in the world. The people for whom Christ prayed here are redeemed men and women who are in Christ and Christ is in them in every nation in the world. Jesus prayed that they will be welcomed to dwell with Him in Heaven and see His glory as the eternal and pre-incarnate Christ and finally that the same kind of love that God has for Christ will be evident in them as He also abides in them.



### 3. Focus of Heaven minded saints and Christ's faith in Disciples' future

*"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."* **John 20:21**

*"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* **Mathew 5:14, 16**

*"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."* **Mathew 24:14**

As God in answer to Jesus' prayers keep us safe we must keep our purpose in view and remain focused. Jesus prophesied that the world's ultimate end shall be chaos and anarchy. Yet He did not want us hurried out of the world into heaven after our conversion. He still wanted us to be in the world to preach and live in such a way that will give every man who meet us opportunity to make an intelligent choice of whether to receive or reject Jesus Christ. We are here and remain in the world to be instruments in God's hand by which human life in every area and at every level can be transformed by the penetrating light and power of the Gospel. Oneness with the Trinity and with one another; and accompanying signs and wonders that will proliferate through this is the key. The glory that God gave to Christ He shared with His disciples and all genuine believers. This is the glory of adoption into God's family, the glory of being heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, the glory of being God and Christ's ambassadors among men on earth, and the glory of having and wielding the same power and authority with God and in God that Christ wielded.

Christ's prayer for these frightened and insecure disciples, which extended far into the future to include prayer for their mission's success and for future believers and Christ's followers, revealed that Jesus was walking by faith. He believed in their future as He placed them in God's hands. He was sure that God will never fail. He never did. We should remember to do this (to pray) in our moments of doubt and uncertainties over divine assignment.

Once again, and as point of emphasis, let it be known that the oneness of Christ's followers with Him, with God and with one another, in line with Christ's prayer in John 17 is only possible by the power of God. It will take God's power made available through Christ's exemplary living, mediation, sacrifice, preaching and practice to blend men's passions, desires, interests, goals, programmes and projects. To be one in the sense that Jesus Christ desired, our unity must revolve around His person and model as well as unequivocal dedication to study, believe and obey His word. We must believe, practice and preach the same word and doctrine that Jesus and the Apostles believed, practiced and preached. We need this to live on earth as God would have us live to reign with Christ in eternity. The possibility, priority and peril of this is the focus of Christ's prayer in John 17.



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**John Nelson Hyde**, known as the apostle of prayer and "*Praying Hyde*", was born on November 9, 1865 in Carthage, Illinois. His father was a Presbyterian preacher named Rev Smith Harris Hyde. John and his brother Edmund both attended seminary together to follow in their father's preaching footsteps. Growing up, John admired his older brother and viewed him as his spiritual mentor. His call to the mission field came by way of personal tragedy. During one summer vacation, his older brother Edmund was engaged Sunday school mission work in Montana and contracted mountain fever. Doctors told Edmund to return home to Illinois. Along the way, delirium set in and eventually Edmund passed away amongst his family on his arrival at his home. John realized there now laid a hole on the mission field that his brother Edmund and he wondered if it were not God's will for him to step into the gap. The decision was not finally reached until the next year, his last in seminary.

Late one Saturday night he went to a classmate's room and asked him for all the arguments he could furnish on the question of the foreign field. His classmate told him that it was not argument he needed; what he should do was to go to his room, get on his knees before God, and stay there until the question was settled. The next morning at Chapel he said to his classmate, "*It is settled*," and his shining face was enough to show which way the decision went.

No one expected John to be an amazing missionary. After all, he was partially deaf, slow to speak, and rather bland in his personality. John also had a very challenging time learning the Indian language. Eventually, John gave up learning the language to study the Bible more. When reprimanded, he would reply "*First things first*." John would finally go on to be fluent in Urdu, Punjabi, and English.

In 1904, Indian Christians and western missionaries gathered for the first of an annual series of conventions at Sialkot in what is today Pakistan. To support this time of spiritual renewal, John Hyde and his friends formed the Punjab Prayer Union, the members of which set aside half an hour a day to prayer for spiritual revival. The results of their prayers were plainly seen at the Sialkot Convention

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

**JOHN NELSON HYDE**  
1865 - 1912



as a special anointing fell upon those gathered. Before the convention even started, John and few other leaders committed themselves to all day and night prayer and praise meetings. The leaders labored not only for the coming revival amongst the missionaries, but also the whole country of India. After the success of the first convention, the missionaries decided to make the convention yearly.

Year by year the prayer union fasted and prayed, and at each convention a growing urgency for evangelism and intercession filled each attendee. John Hyde later emerged as the prayer leader. At 1908 convention, Hyde had the spiritual tenacity to pray for the conversion of one man each and every day for a year. Through God's saving grace and Hyde's fervent intercessory prayer, a year later over 400 more converts had been won into God's Kingdom. Then he began to pray for two souls a day, and as a result 800 responded to the gospel that year, and yet he wasn't satisfied—he still wanted more.

After almost twenty years in the slums of India, John Hyde's health began to rapidly deteriorate. His heart had shifted out of its natural position on the left side of his chest to a place over on the right. In March 1911, He left India to return home to Carthage, Illinois and seek medical attention. He died on February 17, 1912 aged 46. His recorded last words are "*Shout the victory of Jesus Christ!*"

### SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

*"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, ..." John 17:24*

## SONG OF THE MONTH

### SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!
2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
The joys I feel, the bliss I share,  
Of those whose anxious spirits burn  
With strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place  
Where God my Savior shows His face,  
And gladly take my station there,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him whose truth and faithfulness  
Engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since He bids me seek His face,  
Believe His Word and trust His grace,  
I'll cast on Him my every care,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
4. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
May I thy consolation share,  
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,  
I view my home and take my flight:  
This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise  
To seize the everlasting prize;  
And shout, while passing through the air,  
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!

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