**PRAYING FOR BELIEVERS BECAUSE OF THE EVIL ONE**

John 17:13-19

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**INTRODUCTION**

In His High Priestly Prayer, Jesus first prayed for Himself so that He might glorify the Father in His death, just as He had in His life and ministry. He also prayed that the Father would protect His present followers since He was leaving them to face a hostile world without Him. Today, we look at the third part of His prayer: He prays for the Father to protect them because of the Evil One. Living in a hostile world is difficult enough; but to face the author of evil, Satan himself, is impossible without the Father’s empowering protection. Let us see what we can learn from this section of the prayer.

1. **JESUS’ DESIRE FOR HIS FOLLOWERS**
2. He desires that they may have the fullness of His **joy**—v. 13.
3. He desires that the Father **protect** them from the Evil One—v. 15.
4. He desires that the Father sanctify them by the truth, the **Word** of **God**—v. 17.
5. He desires that they may be truly sanctified, **set** **apart** for **service** in His Kingdom—v. 19.

*Jesus realized that His followers were going to face the evil ruler of this world—Satan himself. He knew they would need the Father’s protection if they were to be able to live effective Christian lives in such a hostile environment.*

1. **JESUS’ DESCRIPTION OF HIS FOLLOWERS**
2. The world **hates** them because they have His **word**—v. 14.
3. Like Jesus, they are **separate** from, not **part** **of**, this world—vv. 14, 16.
4. Jesus **sends** them into the world, just as the Father **sent** Him—v. 18.
5. Jesus sanctified Himself for their **benefit**—v. 19.

*Jesus prayed for His Father to protect and empower His followers because they would live in a world that hated them and would resist them at every step. Realizing that they would need to live separated lives in this world into which He sent them, He lived a sanctified life to demonstrate what they would need to do to be His witnesses.*

**CONCLUSION**

In His High Priestly Prayer, Jesus prays for His followers to be protected from the Evil One who tempts, intimidates, and seeks to control people in this world. We face a hostile world because the world is under the control of a hostile being, Satan. Satan hates God and anything or anyone created by God. Those who fall under his control will demonstrate the same kind of hatred for anything belonging to God. Thus, fully realizing the warfare that His followers would face in this world, Jesus prayed that His Father would especially take care of them as long as they were in the world. Here is the good news: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one” (John 10:27-30).

*“Jesus, keep me near the cross—There a precious fountain,*

*Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.*

*In the cross, in the cross Be my glory ever,*

*Till my raptured soul shall find Rest, beyond the river.”*