

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

We Have an
Advocate
in Jesus

INTRODUCTION

John 17:6-29

There was a soldier in the Union army, a young man who had lost his older brother and his father in the war. He went to Washington, D.C., to see President Lincoln to ask for an exemption from military service so he could go back and help his sister and mother with the spring planting on the farm. When he arrived in Washington, after having received a furlough from the military to go and plead his case, he went to the White House, approached the doors, and asked to see the president.

However, he was told, 'You can't see the president! Don't you know there's a war on? The president's a very busy man. Now go away, son! Get back out there and fight the Rebs like you're supposed to.' So he left, very disheartened, and was sitting on a little park bench not far from the White House when a little boy came up to him.

The lad said, 'Soldier, you look unhappy. What's wrong?' The soldier looked at this young boy and began to spill his heart out to this young lad about his situation, about his father and his brother having died in the war, and how he was the only male left in the family and was needed desperately back at the farm for the Spring planting.

The little boy took the soldier by the hand and led him around to the back of the White House. They went through the back door, past the guards, past all the generals and the high-ranking government officials until they got to the president's office itself. The little boy didn't even knock on the door but just opened it and walked in. There was President Lincoln with his secretary of state, looking over battle plans on the desk. President Lincoln looked up and said, 'What can I do for you, Todd?' And Todd said, 'Daddy, this soldier needs to talk to you.' And right then and there the soldier had a chance to plead his case to President Lincoln, and he was exempted from military service due to the hardship he was under.¹

OPEN IT

1. What is a time when you needed someone to help you because you could not help yourself?

¹Hewett, J. S. (1988). The Soldier and the Young Boy. In *Illustrations unlimited* (pp. 72–73). essay, Tyndale House Publishers.

APPLY IT

In this recorded prayer between Jesus and the Father in John 17, Jesus knows that His time is done in the world and that He is going so that the Holy Spirit will come to all believers. As He prays to His Father, He is declaring several things: His desire that the disciples will continue in their ministry, that they'll be encouraged, and ultimately, that they'll be sanctified.

This prayer has highlighted the word "given." "Now they know that everything that you have **given** me is from you. For I have **given** them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me." "I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have **given** me, for they are yours." "And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have **given** me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have **given** me." "I have **given** them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."³

In John 10:27-28, Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I **give** them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."⁴

I recently heard someone tell of their salvation story, and they proclaimed with great excitement that they were not searching for God. God found them. They were lost, and He found them and **gave** them eternal life.

- 8. Summarizing your story into four sentences or less, what was going on in your life when God gave you the truth, when God gave you eternal life?**

³ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

⁴ Ibid

Recently, my family welcomed another young man into our home. This time, it was a 10-year-old boy. During the first couple of days, he would call me Mr. Phil. However, after these first two days, he just started saying “dad.” “Hey dad, can I have a snack.” “Thanks, dad! I really liked playing that game.” After only a couple of days, this young man understood that he was not in my home because I was helping him out. He understood that he was in our home because we loved him. He understood that all that I had was now his. He understood that he belonged.

That is what Jesus is saying to His Father when He talks about people belonging to the Father and now belonging to the Son. That is the definition of a Christian. Someone who belongs to Jesus.

- 9. Read through the following verses and pick at least two of them to write a brief reflection on. Meditate on the understanding that as a follower of Jesus Christ, you belong to Him. You are an heir (Romans 8:17).**

Isaiah 43:1

Romans 14:8

1 Corinthians 6:19

Galatians 2:20

Psalm 100:3

Over the centuries, the Hebrew name for God has accumulated many layers of tradition in Judaism.

The Hebrew name for God, YHWH (in Hebrew spelled yud-hay-vav-hay or יהוה) and known as the Tetragrammaton, is never pronounced out loud in Judaism and is one of the ancient names of God. This name is also written as JHWH, where the word "JeHoVaH" in Christianity comes from.

Other sacred names for God include:

Elohim (אלהים) and variations, including El (אל), Eloha, Elohai ("my God") and Elohaynu ("our God")

El Shaddai (אל שדי): God Almighty

Tzevaot (צבאות): Lord of Hosts

According to Maimonides, any book that contains these names written in Hebrew is treated with reverence, and the name cannot be destroyed, erased, or effaced, and any books or writings containing the name cannot be thrown away (Mishnah Torah, Sefer Mada, Yesodei ha-Torah 6:2). Instead, these books are stored in a genizah, a unique storage space sometimes found in a synagogue or other Jewish facility until they can be given a proper burial in a Jewish cemetery. This law applies to all seven of the ancient names of God.⁵

In this prayer by Jesus, we are told that a follower of Christ is given knowledge of God's name. We read in John 17:6, 11, and 12 that the believer knows the name of the One who gave eternal life.

We don't often name our children because of significant meaning. If anything, we are naming our children after a loved one or keeping up with tradition. In America, the last name is seen as the most significant name because it points to a lineage of people. Yet all around the world names are important for many people and carry a great sense of meaning and significance.

**10. Watch [this video](#) on exploring the many names of God (USE THE QR CODE).
Then, do a study through the scriptures and identify the names of God?**



⁵ Pelaia, A. (2018, June 11). Jewish customs of spelling "god". Learn Religions. Retrieved May 3, 2022, from <https://www.learnreligions.com/jewish-spelling-of-god-2076772>

In John 1:14, John writes, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”⁶ The Word, Jesus, came to us and dwelt among us. Additionally, the words spoken by Jesus, which were given to Him by His Father, became the Word of God. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John has done a marvelous job of making sure that we understand both of the ways in which the “word” was given to us.

Something to meditate on: Jesus (the Word) came to this world to bring us His Father’s Word, just so that He could die on the cross to provide forgiveness and eternal life.

11. Do you believe that the Bible is truly God’s Word? If so, what are some actions in your life that show that you truly follow the Bible?

12. Understanding that the study of God’s Word is essential to every follower, what are some ways you have studied His Word practically and effectively through your time as a Christian?

⁶ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

For whatever reason, I can remember the day that I told my second-born child to take the keys to the car and go to practice on her own. I remember watching as the vehicle pulled northbound on Route 47. I played that scene in my head several times, thinking about my little girl who was grown up. I thought about all the conversations we had in the car as I trained her. I thought about the close calls when I might not have kept too quiet. Bottom line, I remember sending her out to accomplish a goal...getting to her practice safely on her own.

Toward the end of this passage, Jesus is praying to the Father to send the people that believe and belong to Him into the world. Starting with verse 14, it says, "I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."⁷

Jesus knows that by sending His people into the world, there will be a significant risk of harm. As Jesus is speaking to His Father, He says that the world has already started hating them because of the words provided by Jesus. Nonetheless, Jesus is asking that God keeps the believers in the world because they have been armed with the word. Jesus is asking that the people be sanctified.

13. Where is God calling you right now? Have you recently asked God to reveal where He wants you to serve?

⁷ Ibid