

# Gospel of John

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The Upper Room – Part Two

# Structure

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- Prologue (1: 1-18) - Above
- Book of Signs (Chapter 2 – Chapter 11) – Coming Down
  - Each sign is followed by discourse
- **Book of Glory (Chapter 12 – 20) – nearing the Climax, then going back above**
  - **Upper room discourse (ch 13-17) – THIS WEEK Chs 16-17**
- Appendix (Chapter 21) – Appearances; ‘other things not written’

# Holy Spirit in the OT

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## He Creates...

- Gen 1:1-2 - *In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.*
- Job 26:13 - *By his wind the heavens were made fair;*

# Holy Spirit in the OT

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He gives and restores life...

- *Gen 2:7 - then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.*
- *Psalm 104:29-30 - When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.”*
- *Is 32:15 - until a spirit from on high is poured out on us, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.*

# Holy Spirit in the OT

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He Gives Gifts ... (prophecy, wisdom, inspiration, etc..)

- *Is 42:1 - Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.*
- *Ez 2:2 – And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me.*
- *2 Sam 23:2 - The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue.*
- *Judges 3:10 - The spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel; he went out to war, and the Lord gave King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram into his hand;*

# Holy Spirit in the OT

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## Holiness...

- Ez 36:27 – *I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.*
- Ps 143:10 - *Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.*

“I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling.”

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\*\*Always present and active, but now being explicitly promised\*\*

“I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling.”

Preparation for the future – Immediate and long term (after Ascension)

- Immediate – preparation for the Triduum
- Long Term – What will happen to whole church
- Certainty of victory, hope and joy
- Implication of His departure

“I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling.”

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### Telling them the truth

- Warning about their own “Hour”, they will follow His path
  - Their own climax/persecution
  - Persecution is coming, *in the name of God*
  - Their own via crucis
- The world doesn’t know The Father
- Do not be surprised, He will send an advocate



# “I am going to him who sent me”

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“You do not ask where am I going?”

- They feel grief and sorrow
- They’ve realized he IS going away, no thought of where
  - Still seeing earthly (bios) things (kingdom, messiah)
  - Couldn’t see Man’s future lies outside of the world
- They were asking the wrong questions because they were sorrowful

\*\*He cannot share everything now – The Advocate will help\*\*

# Sorrow – The Hour

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Notice, Jesus oscillates between The Hour, The Advocate and Hope

*John 16:32 - The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone.*

*Zech 13:7 - “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,  
against the man who is my associate,”  
says the LORD of hosts.*

*Strike the shepherd, that the sheep may be scattered;  
I will turn my hand against the little ones.*

# The Advocate

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## Jesus Promises The Advocate

- An advocate speaks for you, stands with you
- Everything the Father has given, Jesus gives to us
- You are not alone!

# What does the Advocate do?

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- Teach/impart true righteousness
- Prophecy
- Teach you how to pray
- Teach you how to worship, glorify Jesus
- Teach the truth about everything, deeper reality
  - God, Christ, Discipleship, The Church (see Acts of the Apostles)
  - The way to follow Christ
- Minister through them to the world
- Remind them all that Christ taught them
- Convict the world of its sinfulness

# Hope

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*John 16:33 – “I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!”*

Jesus mirrors and fulfills the prophecy of Is 66

The battle will be won ‘above’ – Jesus is taking us up

# Holy Spirit - Questions

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- How do you distinguish between the Holy Spirit and Jesus in your life, decisions, etc.?
- What are some of the persecutions Jesus predicted? Are they happening today? Do you think persecution can make you question your faith? Why or Why not?
- Do you ever feel abandoned by God? Do you feel He has not always kept His promises?

# The Prayer of Jesus – Ch 17

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Jn 17:1 – *“After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come...”*

- Happens within “The Hour”
- Praying for and with the people *who believed*
- Speaks to the Glory of God
  - The Father’s, The Son’s – returning and giving to each Other
  - Fulfilling God’s Will
- Specific structure to the prayer – Jewish Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

# The Prayer of Jesus

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Specific structure to the prayer

– Jewish Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

- The High Priest would pray for himself
  - and then other priests
    - and then the community (Israel)
- To restore the people of Israel after their transgressions
  - They were chosen, set apart
  - A blessing to the rest of the world



# The Prayer of Jesus

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Jesus requests/offers: (reflected in Mass)

- For Himself
  - Glory from The Father – He's embracing the cross as a supreme act of Love – Love is true glory
- For His disciples
  - Thanksgiving for His disciples, their faith
  - Consecration for the Disciples, to be set apart for holiness, mission
  - To be a total gift to God, available for God's service
  - For unity – Their unity with God gives life to the mission (now and future)

# The Prayer of Jesus

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Jesus reveals:

- Eternal Life – to believe in Jesus
- He has taught His disciples about God through His very presence
- The first believers are the first Church

Jn 17:22 – “...*so that they may be one, as we are one*”

Anything that threatens the unity of the Church is serious

# The Prayer of Jesus

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Jesus declares

- His full willingness to enter into the plan of The Father
- He is the obedient High Priest, sacrificing himself
- He atones for our sins once and for all

-Transforms the Jewish understanding-

# The Lord's Prayer & Upper Room Prayer

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## Similarities

- Both are based on an Old Testament pattern:
  - Jesus's prayer based on the feast of expiation
  - The 'Our Father' is based on the Shema
- Direct appeal to God the Father
- Both prayers have petitions/intercessory aspect (needs for today and tomorrow)
- Unity is present in both prayers
- God's divine will/plan is expressed in the prayers/Hallowing vs sanctification
- Setting apart for mission is present in the prayers
- Express concern for the work of the Kingdom of God

# The Lord's Prayer & Upper Room Prayer

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## Differences:

- The initiator of the priestly prayer is Jesus Himself while the Lord's prayer is at the request of the disciples
- The setting is different: last supper, hour of glorification/ sermon on the Mount
- Jesus taught the Lord's prayer but did not pray it Himself: model of prayer

## What is necessary?

- Prayer - for success in fulfilling the plan of God
- Trust/ faith

# Prayer of Jesus - Questions

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- Where do we see threats to the unity of the Church today? Do we take them as seriously as we should?
- Do you think your own “Hour” is coming...? Has it already come?
- Jesus’ prayer was about the present and the future. How was He praying for us today?
- Do you wish Jesus wanted to remove us from the world, instead of leaving us in it? Do you think this applies to people living a monastic life?