



From left to right: John Tippette, Adam Steverson, Cory Bolick, Joshua Hoover, Michael Logan, Adam Owens, Jamin Gabara, Jeff Gentner, Jake Alderman, Matthew Abaloz, Matthew Webb, Brantley Mills, Luke Kenny, and Travis Kolasinski

"I pray for them...for they are yours"

-John 17:9

The 17th chapter of John is a tremendous account of Jesus praying to his Father. This intercession occurred after the 'Last Supper' as Christ and His disciples were traveling through the streets of Jerusalem on their way to the garden of Gethsemane. What a special chapter of scripture; it's as if we are eavesdropping on Jesus and listening in on His prayer. He prays for Himself, for His disciples, and all those who will believe because of the disciple's message. How encouraging it is to know that someone is praying for us, especially Christ Himself.

It is sweet to see His heart for these men. He loved them and He was aware that He would soon be leaving them in the physical sense. Thus, He says to His Father in verses 9-11, "I pray for them...for they are yours...I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You." He elaborates on the fact that the Father gave them to Him and He has taken care of them while with them, but now the Son is asking the Father to intervene. He specifies some things and I think we can emulate his prayer for the men pictured above, our most recent graduates. These men are also His disciples and they are now carrying the message of life.

We realize they are sons of the Father and we ask as Jesus did that He will continue moving in their lives. I encourage you to read the entire chapter as it is extremely life-giving, but let me highlight just a handful of items that Jesus enumerates:

"Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name..."

"May they have the full measure of [my] joy within them."

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."

"Sanctify them by the truth: Your word is truth."

Will you please join us in prayer for these men today? How impactful it is for them to know they have an army of believers whom are willing to intercede for them as they venture into what the Lord has for them.

Father, we pray for these men for they are yours. May You protect them, give them an abundance of joy as they walk with You, and may You continue to sanctify them by Your truth.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and love!

Nick

“Before coming to Dunklin, I was a hopeless alcoholic and drug addict. I had given up on life and lived in a constant state of depression. I cried out to the Lord and asked Him to save me and change me. The Lord answered this prayer and brought me to Dunklin Memorial Camp. Since being here, I have developed a close relationship with Jesus Christ. I have a hope for my future and I finally have peace and joy in my life.”

- *Matthew Webb*

“My addiction to drugs and alcohol began at 15 years old and has progressed for over 30 years now. I’ve been selfish and have made horrible decisions. I had abandoned my children over and over again and pushed all those who loved me away. But the Lord intervened and through a series of crisis brought me to Dunklin. While here at Dunklin, I’ve had the opportunity to be honest with myself and allow the Lord to work in my heart. He has restored the relationship with my children. Coming to Dunklin was the best decision I’ve ever made.”

- *Matt Abaloz*

“My name is Josh Hoover. I come from a 25 year addiction to drugs and alcohol. Prior to coming to Dunklin, I was hopeless and had pushed all my loved ones out of my life. I was almost dead physically with a heart that was only operating at 30%. But the Lord answered my family’s prayers and pulled me out of that dark place. He reconciled me with my family and restored my heart back to full capacity. He has given me a new chance at life and I’m excited to walk this journey with Him.”

- *Josh Hoover*

“I’ve been in a losing battle the past 20 years with drugs and alcohol. I had no faith, no hope, and no care for my well being. After a suicide attempt and overdose, I was finally at my bottom. I reached out to Dunklin in desperation. I wanted sobriety, but in return I received a whole new perspective on life. The Lord has done so much work on me and even my family has been blessed by me being here. The Lord has brought us all together and I’m so thankful He brought me to Dunklin.”

- *Adam Owens*

“I come from a 10 year addiction to heroin that ruined all my relationships and left me with little hope for life. But the Lord loved me when I couldn’t love myself. Through being here at Dunklin, I have built an intimate relationship with the Lord. I look forward to being a son, brother, and uncle. I’m excited for the plans the Lord has for me!”

- *Travis Kolasinski*

“Before coming to Dunklin, I was addicted to Methamphetamine and it controlled all aspects of my life. I was closed off to my family and completely lost. But the Lord boxed me in and paved the way for me to get to Dunklin. Today, I have a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. My hope and trust is in Him and I hope that I can be the father and husband He has called me to be.”

- *Adam Steverson*

“I’m 52 years old and have suffered over 37 years of alcohol and drug addiction. I’ve lied, manipulated, and stolen from the ones I love the most. I never had a relationship with the Lord until coming to Dunklin. Since being here, He has changed my heart and has given me a 2nd chance at life. I will be going to Liberty Lodge for aftercare and transitioning into the new life the Lord has for me. I look forward to being the father, brother, and son my family deserves. I’m grateful and I owe it all to Jesus Christ!”

- *Jeff Gentner*

