

John 11:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

Analysis

Jesus declares His confidence: the Father 'always' hears Him. This reveals perfect communion between Father and Son, grounded in their ontological unity. Yet Jesus prays aloud 'because of the people,' making this prayer pedagogical rather than necessary for divine transaction. The purpose clause 'that they may believe' shows Jesus' public prayer serves evangelistic and discipleship purposes. This demonstrates that Christ's ministry, even His prayer life, aimed at producing faith. Prayer becomes testimony to God's responsiveness and Christ's divine sonship.

Historical Context

Public prayer was common in Jewish practice, especially by rabbis and leaders. Jesus' public prayer served teaching purposes, revealing God's character and modeling prayer for disciples.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' confidence that the Father always hears Him demonstrate their perfect unity?
2. What does this teach about the evangelistic function of public prayer?
3. In what ways should our prayers serve as testimony to God's faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγὼ δὲ ἤδειν ὅτι πάντοτε μου ἀκούεις ἀλλὰ διὰ
I And knew that always me thou hearest but because
G1473 G1161 G1492 G3754 G3842 G3450 G191 G235 G1223

τὸν ὄχλον τὸν περιεστῶτα εἰπον ἵνα πιστεύσωσιν
which of the people which stand by I said it that they may believe
G3588 G3793 G3588 G4026 G2036 G2443 G4100

ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας
that thou me hast sent
G3754 G4771 G3165 G649

Additional Cross-References

John 3:17 (Parallel theme): For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 17:21 (Faith): 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.

Hebrews 7:25 (Parallel theme): Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 5:7 (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

1 John 4:14 (Parallel theme): And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Romans 8:3 (Parallel theme): For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Matthew 26:53 (Parallel theme): Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

John 11:22 (Parallel theme): But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

John 17:25 (Parallel theme): O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

John 17:8 (Faith): For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.