

FIRST JOHN 5:14-21 - Confidence and Confession in Prayer

1/17/26 Sat. Morn. Prayer - <https://www.ptwente.com> (20200609 1 Joh 5:14-21) ptwente@gmail.com 714 425 9221

(1Jn 5:14-21) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **[15]** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. **[16]** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. **[17]** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death. **[18]** We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. **[19]** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. **[20]** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. **[21]** Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Confidence and Compassion in Prayer vs. 5:14-17 - Praying According To God's Will

1Jn 5:14 Now this is the confidence (boldness, freedom of speech) that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

- In the previous verses, John has developed the idea of confidence in Him. Only those in Jesus have this confidence.
- **(1Jn 2:28)** And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
- **(1Jn 3:21-22)** Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. We must have a heart that does not condemn us. **[22]** And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
- **(1Jn 5:13)** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
- **Christians possess a confidence in prayer that no one else** in the world has, because nobody else's prayers can get to the Father the way they can coming through the One Mediator, between God and man, Christ Jesus! I can have no salvation relationship with God, apart from Him. That is offensive to people. But if you could come another way, then there would have been no reason for Jesus have gone to the cross.
- **Now, John relates the idea of confidence in Him to prayer.** Our assurance will give us confidence in prayer! We need confidence in prayer. This word confidence means "boldness." This is the boldness that we have in Him." This assurance will give boldness in prayer to the child of God. We can come to the Father freely and tell Him our needs.

that if (qualifying word) **we ask** (alteo - call for, desire; used twice here) **anything according to His will** (praying in submission to His will), **He hears us.**

- **Here we see the purpose of prayer and the secret of power in prayer.** It is to ask; to ask anything according to His will; and once having so asked, we are to have the assurance that He hears us.
- **First, God would have us ask in prayer.** Second, God would have us ask anything in prayer. Not that anything we ask for will be granted, but anything in the sense that we can and should pray about everything. Next, God would have us ask according to His will. Anything that is consistent with His nature. Anything that is not consistent with His nature or His will, is not the way to pray!
- **Scriptural verses suggesting praying according to the will of God:** **(2Pe 3:9)** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Pray for the lost!
- **(1Th 5:16-18)** Rejoice always, **[17]** pray without ceasing, **[18]** in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Pray for a joyful and thankful witness and heart!
- **(1Pe 2:15)** **For this is the will of God**, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— Pray for doing good, to act uprightly at all times!

- (**Mar 14:38**) **Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Watch and pray!
- (**Luk 18:1b**) (**Jesus speaking of His 2nd coming**) Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, Pray to wait, work and watch, not to yield to temptation.
- (**1Jn 3:23**) **And this is His commandment**: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Pray for more faith and more love for our Lord and for one another!
- (**2Jn 1:6**) **This is love, that we walk according** to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it. Pray for an obedient and closer walk with Him! commandments.
- **Prayer does not change the mind of God or the purposes of God.** The purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in heaven but to get God's will done on earth.
- **George Mueller, who fed thousands of orphans** with food provided in answer to prayer, said: "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of God's willingness."
- **It is easy for us to only be concerned with our will** before God, but He wants us to see and discern His will through His word, and to pray His will into action. (**Joh 15:7**) *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.* (**Mat 6:10**) *Your kingdom come. Your will be done* On earth as it is in heaven. (**Mat 26:39-42**) He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
- **When we abide in Jesus** - living in Him, day by day - then our will becomes more and more aligned with His will, and we can ask what you desire, and more and more we will be asking according to His will.
- **We receive the things we ask for that are according to God's will.** We should not attempt to dictate to God and command that He give us what we ask for.
- **The more you think about it, the more wonderful** this arrangement becomes. God has ordained that I maintain a close walk with Him if I expect Him to meet my needs.
- **If our prayers are crashing before** they make it to heaven, we need to investigate why?
- (**Psa 66:18**) *If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. If I'm living in rebellion and sin, my prayers will not be answered. It is a sign that I am involved in some sin that, if not dealt with, will wipe me out. God's failure to answer my prayer is not punishment but protection.*
- (**1Pe 3:7**) **Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding**, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. Because God wants husbands and wives to walk in unity and love, if a husband is not honoring or loving his wife, his prayers will be hindered as an incentive for him to make things right.
- (**Mat 5:23-24**) **Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar**, and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there before the altar and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. You need to make things right with him before you continue in prayer.
- **Is there any sin you are harboring?** Are there problems in your marriage? Is there a relationship that needs to be repaired? Are you neglecting the Word? These are the issues that will hinder our prayers.

1Jn 5:15 *And if we know (eido) that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have* (present tense) *the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

- **"He hears us."** You can be sure that He not only hears our prayer, but He also answers our prayer. God will hear the prayers of His children, but He will not always answer them by giving us what we ask. John is saying here that we can have the confidence that He will answer our request according to the way we pray—when we pray in His will.
- **Then we see answered prayer.** - God wants us to work with Him, and that means bringing our will and agenda into alignment with His. He wants us to care about the things He cares about, and He wants us to care about them enough to pray passionately about them!
- **We know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him:** When we ask according to God's will; when we pray the promises of God - we have this confidence and so pray with real and definite faith.

- **The most powerful prayers in the Bible** are always prayers which understand the will of God, and ask Him to perform it. When we do this God is delighted. It shows our will aligned with His, our dependence on Him, and that we take His word seriously.
- **John does not write, “We shall have the petitions,”** but, “ *We know that we have the petitions*. The verb is future but present tense. We may not see the answer to a prayer immediately, but we have inner confidence that God has answered. This confidence, or faith, is “the evidence of things not seen”. It is God witnessing to us that He has heard and answered.
- **Even though Jesus was God in the flesh, He depended on prayer.** He lived on earth, as we must, in dependence on the Father. He arose early in the morning to pray, though He had been up late the night before healing the multitudes. (*Mar 1:35*) *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.*
- **He sometimes spent all night in prayer, (*Luk 6:12*)** *Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*
- **In the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed** with “strong crying and tears” (*Heb 5:7*) *who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,*
- **On the cross He prayed three times.** If the sinless Son of God needed to pray, how much more do we? (*Mat 26:42-44*) *Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." [43] And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. [44] So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.*
- **The most important thing about prayer** is its relationship to the will of God. We must take time to ascertain what God’s will is in a matter, especially searching in the Bible for promises or principles that apply to our situation. Once we know the will of God, we can pray with confidence and then wait for Him to reveal the answer.
- **Standing on His promises:** I know what His promises are. I want to stand on those promises, praying in accordance with those promises! Then we can sit back and know that He has heard it in the right time, His time, those prayer will be answered! When we pray this way, we have a confidence that our prayers make a difference! As believers, we have that confidence that no one else has.

1Jn 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

- **If you see a believing brother sinning**, perhaps backslidden, pray for him and He will give him life!
- **There is sin leading to (eternal) death.** (*Mat 12:31-32*) *"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. [32] Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.*
- **sin leading to (physical) death.** (*Act 5:5, 10*) *Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. [10] Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.*
- **There are two factors that may be related** to a person’s physical death – The completion of a person’s ministry. When because of their sin their witness has been irreparably damaged to accomplish what God knows is best.

There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. I do not say that he should pray (er-o-tah-o -inquire, interrogate) ***about that.*** (*Jer 7:16*) *"Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you. (Jer 14:11-12) Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for this people, for their good. [12] When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."*

- **If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin . . .** he will ask: When we see a brother in sin, John tells us the first thing to do is to pray for that person. All too often, prayer is the last thing we do, or the smallest thing we do in regard to our brother having a difficult time.
- **And He will give him life:** God promised to bless the prayer made on behalf of a brother in sin. Perhaps such prayers have special power before God because they are prayers in fulfillment of the command to love the brethren. Surely, we love each other best when we pray for each other.
- **There is sin leading to death:** Because he speaks in context of a brother, it may be wrong to see him meaning a sin leading to spiritual death; he probably means a sin leading to the physical death of the believer.
- **This is a difficult concept, but we have an example** of it in **(1Co 11:27-32)** where Paul says that among the Christians in Corinth, because of their disgraceful conduct at the Lord's Supper, some had died (many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep). This death came not as a condemning judgment, but as a corrective judgment **(1Co 11:32)** *But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.*
- **I do not say that he should pray about that:** Apparently, when a Christian is being corrected in regard to a sin leading to death, there is no point in praying for his recovery or restoration - the situation is in God's hands alone.
- **There is sin not leading to death:** John takes pains to recognize that not every sin leads to death in the manner he speaks of, though all unrighteousness is sin.
- **But if a person deliberately and willfully turns his back and rejects Jesus Christ, then pray** also for him, but not, "God, save him." Because God won't save him against his will. Pray that God will bind Satan's power and work, and God will open his heart to the truth. You can't really say, "God, save him," because that's something God won't do against a person's will. *(Pastor Chuck)*

1Jn 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death. (1Jn 3:4) Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

- **Unrighteousness is one manifestation of sin** as lawlessness is another. The world today takes sin too lightly, even jokingly as a mere animal inheritance. Sin is a terrible reality, but there is no cause for despair. *Sin not leading to death* can be overcome in Christ.
- **Believers who are alive today have all sinned** but we haven't sinned a sin unto death. We did something that was wrong, it was unrighteousness, but God didn't take us home. If He were taking home every believer who sinned, I would have been taken home a long time ago.
- **When we are walking in fellowship with Him**, when we are following Him, we can have the confidence that He will hear what we ask and answer our prayer. We are not to come to Him with mistrust or in a begging attitude, but we are to come with boldness to ask that God's will be done.
- **We must be sure to pray for the lost** among us!

Knowing the True – Rejecting the False - vs. 5:18-21

1Jn 5:18 We know (eido) that whoever is born of God does not (practice, continue in) **sin; (1Pe 1:23) having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,**

- **He is declaring the theme** of the epistle again.
- **"does not sin"** means "does not live in, practice or continue in sin." It is no longer the practice of my life. I do slip up. I do sin. But it is not the practice of my life.
- **Whoever is born of God does not sin:** In the battle against sin, it is most essential that we keep our minds set on who we are in Jesus Christ. If we are born of Him (born again), we then have the resources to be free from habitual sin. That is better translated, does not live in or practice sin.

but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

- **If we are born again we then have a protection** against the wicked one, a unique protection that does not belong to the one who is not born again. Knowing this gives us godly confidence in spiritual warfare.
- **John is repeating his idea from (1Jn 3:6) Whoever abides in Him does not sin.** This speaks of a settled, continued lifestyle of sin. John is not teaching here the possibility of sinless perfection. The present tense verb implied habit, continuity in an unbroken sequence.

keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch (to attach one's self to) **him. (Jas 1:27)** Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

- **John clearly says that the wicked one** - Satan, or, by implication one of His demons - cannot attach himself to the one who is born of Him.
- **God has given us the ability in our life never to sin.** He supplies the will to do God's good pleasure and the power to do God's good pleasure, so we can never blame God for any sin that we do.
- **A holy life keeps us beyond an effective reach of the devil.** Not beyond the reach of the devil. He reaches us but His reach is not effective in working against us as Christians.
- **What a great place to be, in Christ!** Jesus said, *(Joh 14:30) I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. If I am in Christ, then he has nothing in me.*
- **There is a cyclical belief practice in some churches that teaches** that believers can be demon possessed and there is a necessity of their deliverance. They call it the deliverance ministry. It flies in the face of this scripture, "The wicked one does not touch him."
- **This is another verse which seems to indicate that the child of God can never be** demon possessed. Christians can get to the place where they are oppressed by demons, but if they are actually demon possessed, their salvation should be questioned—even though they may think that they are born again. Why? Because *(1Jn 4:4) You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* The Holy Spirit would not be dwelling where a demon was at home there.

1Jn 5:19 We know (eido) that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked (poneros – strongly attracting, drawing you in) **one. (Gal 1:4)** who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

- **We know that we are of God:** If we are born of Him, we are set apart from the world - we are no longer under the sway of the wicked one, though the whole world still is. However, we need to be aware the wicked one and his followers are not static but are constantly attempting to draw, or to suck you into their wickedness, such as pornography!
- **Knowing this means we can be free to be what we are in Jesus** and separate ourselves from the world system in rebellion against Him, recognizing that our life in Christ is that we've got it right and the wicked one and his followers have it wrong!
- **Do not worry about how many people are following**—who then can enter in Numbers have nothing to do with right and wrong. The Word of God defines right and wrong.
- **How many will be saved? they asked Jesus at one time.** He did not give any number, He said, *(Luk 13:24) "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.* You make sure you are in! *(Mat 7:13-14) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. [14] Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*
- **Do not worry about everybody else, you get in!** Make sure that you are saved! Are you certain you are born again? Call on Him!

1Jn 5:20 And we know (eido) that the Son of God has come (1Jn 4:2) By this you know the Spirit of God:

Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,
and has given us an understanding, (Luk 24:45) And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

that we may know (ginosko) Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ.

- **In the conclusion of this letter, John returned to his major theme:** fellowship with Jesus Christ. We must know (by experience) Him. That is how Jesus wants us to know Him. Do you really know Him? Have you experienced Him? Are you in Christ and He in you?
- **Has given us an understanding:** The work of Jesus in us gives us an understanding, and the ability to know Him, and to be in Him - the abiding life of fellowship, to which John has invited us back. *(1Jn 1:3) that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

- **This understanding must be given.** We cannot attain it on our own. If God did not reveal Himself to us, we would never find Him. We know Him, and can know Him, because He has revealed Himself to us. Have you really received Him?
- **Him who is true also reminds us of a theme** John has had through the letter: the importance of true belief, of trusting in the true Jesus, not a made-up Jesus. The Jesus of the Bible is Him who is true, who is His Son Jesus Christ.
- **More than any other way, God has revealed Himself** to us by Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus is the key and the focus of it all. We see the personality and character of God by looking at Jesus.

This is the true God (Isa 9:6) *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

- **True, True, True! You are in the truth!** About Jesus and who He is; about salvation and what a walk with God looks like. Do not let anyone move you from that truth! Do not move from the truth! When you have the truth, a move from the truth is always a step downward! They have nothing to offer you! **and eternal life. (1Jn 5:11-12)** *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. [12] He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*
- **This is the true God and eternal life:** Here John tells us who Jesus is. He was a man (as John declared **(1Jn 1:1)** *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— (1Jn 4:2) By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,*
- **Jesus was not only a man.** He was totally man and the true God and eternal life. John does not, and we should not promote the humanity of Jesus over His deity, or His deity over His humanity. He is both: fully God and fully man. **(Joh 17:3)** *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent*

1Jn 5:21 Little children (title of deep affection and closeness), ***keep yourselves from idols. Amen.***

- **This speaks against anything that stands between Christ and the believer**, occupying your time and attention, choking out a real relationship with God and with others. Idols include worshipping yourself, wealth, power or position, some hobby or pursuit, ideas, friends, or relatives.
- **He tells them to stay away from the idols** and stay away from the teaching behind them. It is all idolatry. It is all manmade. It is so easy to make idols of material things.
- **No wonder John ends with keep yourselves from idols;** this is how we protect our relationship with God. We can only have a real relationship with the God who is really there! Idolatry, whether obvious (praying to a statue) or subtle (living for your career or someone other than God) will always damage a real relationship with God, and with our brothers and sisters in Jesus.
- **We must keep ourselves from idols!**

Pray Today: We thank the *LORD* for a continuing great worldwide harvest! For continuing protection and security of all believers! For a great revival in the Church! For many to come to Jesus! **President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; J.D & Usha Vance;** Senate majority leader **John Thune**; Speaker of the House **Mike Johnson**; We thank You for the many believers in our current leadership! We pray for more!

THE LORD'S PRAYER- *Andrea Bocelli (3:31/3:34)*

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.