

“THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH IN A WORLD OF DOUBT”

1 John 5:13-21 (Part Three)

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Christians can rest in the truths that we can know that we have eternal life, that we can know that God answers prayer, that we can know victory over sin, that we can know we belong to God, and that we can know what is true.

I. Faith Furnishes Confidence. 5:13

Believing God's witness to His Son gives a sure foundation so that we can know that we have eternal life.

II. Faith Enables Prayer. 5:14-17

As believers we have confidence that God will answer our prayers, if we pray according to His will.

- A. The General Principle: If we ask anything according to God's will, He hears and grants our requests. 14-15
- When we pray, God hears us and we have the requests that we ask of Him. But ... We must ask according to God's will.
- B. The Specific Example: We should pray for God to give life to those who are in sin. 16-17
- If we pray for a person who is not committing a sin unto death, God will give life to him. But ... The promise does not apply to a person committing a sin unto death.

III. Faith Grants Understanding. 5:18-21

Because of what we know about our relationship with God, we must guard ourselves from idols.

- A. The Christians' Victory: We know that no one who is born of God lives in sin. 18
- B. The Christians' Identity: We know that we are of God, in contrast to the world that lies in the power of the evil one. 19
- C. The Christians' Understanding: We know that the Son of God has come & given us understanding to know the true God. 20
- D. The Christians' Charge: As God's little children, we must guard ourselves from idols. 21

What Can We Take Away from 1 John?

1. The Christian message concerns the claims that Christ made regarding Himself and was passed on by the apostles and centuries of Christ-followers down to today.
2. Faith, and faith alone, without human merit is the proper and only true response to the revelation of God's mercies in and through Jesus Christ.
3. It is possible on several counts to know that we have entered into the life of God.
4. God desires us to firmly know and rejoice in the fact that we are securely under His protection and that He will bring all of His children into His presence.
5. John reminds us that we live in a world of false values perpetuated by twisted truths.
6. False teachers are going about with their false understandings of Christ and His accomplishments, and their pleasant words and promises entangle many.