

# Confidence and Compassion in Prayer

1<sup>st</sup> John 5:13-17

## A. Believers in Christ can \_\_\_\_\_ that they have eternal life. (5:13)

*\* Why can we know that we have eternal life?*

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of this confidence is the testimony of God; see 1 John 5:6-12.
2. The only condition to receive eternal life is to \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Son of God.
3. The assurance that we have eternal life is not based on how we feel, not based on the good works or transformed character we may see in our lives – the assurance that we have eternal life is always based on the work of \_\_\_\_\_ and promise of \_\_\_\_\_.

*\* What should the assurance of eternal life lead to?*

1. A settled conviction that God is powerful, loving, and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A life of ongoing \_\_\_\_\_, trusting the Lord as we seek His will.

## B. Believers in Christ can know that their prayers are \_\_\_\_\_. (5:14-15)

*\* What do verses 14 and 15 actually say?*

1. Implied: Every child of God has \_\_\_\_\_ to speak directly to God.
2. Promised: God \_\_\_\_\_ us what we ask for when we pray according to His will.

*\* What questions do these verses bring up?*

- If God has a will, and God is in control of all things, why pray?
- What is God's will?
- When I ask God for things, should I expect Him to answer?
- What should I think when I don't see an answer to my prayers?
- What should I be praying about?

### C. Believers in Christ should pray for one another in \_\_\_\_\_. (5:16-17)

\* *What is the difference between sin unto death and sin not unto death?*

Observations:

- Two distinct and opposite categories of sin exist.
- There is no article (not “the sin”), so a specific act of sin is not being described.
- The focus of John’s teaching is our prayer on behalf of the one who commits sin that does not lead to death.
- Neither kinds of sin are good or permissible.

Four views on the “sin unto death”

**View #1** – A really bad sin that will cause a believer to die eternally

- This cannot be right because it contradicts the promise of eternal life, which was directly affirmed in 1 John 2:25 and 5:11-13.

**View #2** – A rejection of Jesus that prevents a person from ever receiving eternal life

- This view is theologically permissible, but not likely in this context.
- Verse 16 does not expressly say that a “brother” commits sin unto death, but the sins of believers are clearly being discussed in the context.

**View #3** – Any sin in a believer that is defiant, willful, and impossible to recover from

- If this view is correct, it would be difficult if not impossible to determine how bad a believer needs to get before he or she has reached the point of no return.
- 1 John 1:6-2:2 have already taught that forgiveness is always available to the child of God, so I (Pastor Eric) cannot accept this view.

**View #4** – Any sin that results in a believer dying physically

- If this view is correct, then as long as a sinful believer is alive there remains hope that he or she will be restored to fellowship with the Lord.

\* *How do these verses teach us to pray?*

1. If we know a fellow believer has sinned, prayer is to be our \_\_\_\_\_ response.
2. We can ask God to grant \_\_\_\_\_ for a fellow believer who has sinned.
3. Sin is serious enough that we should desire to get involved in the battle and \_\_\_\_\_.