

The First Epistle of John

(Week 54 – 1John 5:14-15)

Text: 1John 5:14-15 (ESV), *“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”*

I. Review

A. 1John 5:13, *“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

1. Believe in the name of the Son of God...

a. A person's name represents everything about that person

b. To believe in the name of the Son means to believe everything about Him:

i. He is the Christ – that is, the Messiah or the Anointed One (1John 5:1)

ii. He is the Son of God (1John 5:5)

1. This implies His being equal to God (John 5:18)

iii. He is the Righteous Advocate (1John 2:1)

iv. He is the propitiation of our sins (1John 2:2)

v. He came in the flesh (1John 4:2)

2. John wrote this epistle so that the Christian may know that he/she has eternal life:

a. That assurance is not based on emotions

b. Nor is it based on having some kind of experience

c. This assurance comes from the Word of God!

i. *“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”* (Romans 15:4 ESV)

II. 1John 5:14-15

A. 1John 5:14 (ESV), *“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.”*

1. Because of the assurance of salvation:

a. We can confidently approach God in prayer

i. Our confidence is not in ourselves, but in Christ

ii. Hebrews 4:16 calls us to approach God's throne with confidence so that we may:

1. Receive mercy: Christ is the propitiation for our sins!

2. Receive grace to help in the time of need: Christ is our strength!

b. We have confidence knowing that He hears us because we are His children!

i. Example:

1. A group of children play while the adults sit eating and talking

➤ Suddenly, a mother jumps up and attends her crying child

➤ Why? Because she heard his cry. She knows his cry and she responds to his need.

2. Our Heavenly Father knows our cries and attends to us.

c. We have confidence because it is not our will we seek, but God's will

i. Biblical prayer is not trying to talk God into giving us what we want

1. Seeking our will is basically saying to God: “Lord, I know better than you; I know what's best for my life!”

ii. Prayer is submitting our will to His!

1. As in the Lord's teaching on prayer: "Your will be done..." (cf. Matthew 6:10)
 2. Praying for His will to be done requires trusting in Him!
 - We often think that things should work in ways that make sense to us
 - For example:
 - a. If you or I were John the apostle, you or I would have probably asked God to spare our brother's life
 - b. We would have thought to ourselves he would be a great asset to the Church
 - c. Yet, God allowed King Herod to put James to death while at the same time, sent an angel to release Peter from prison (Acts 12:1-17).
 3. The main point is this:
 - Sometimes, God works things out in ways we don't understand
 - Be we know that His ways and thoughts are higher than ours (cf. Isa. 55:8-9)
 - Therefore, we trust in Him, believing His will is perfect!
- d. 1John 5:15 goes on to say... *"And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him"*
1. Whatever we request of Him that is in accordance to His will (vs. 14), we have!
 - However, we may not actually see it for many years, but it's good as done!
 - There are many passages on waiting on God: (Ps. 37)
 - a. We must never think that God is saying if we pull the prayer lever, all the goodies will immediately come out of the chute!
 - **Question: What are some biblical examples of prayers that that were answered but required waiting?**
 - a. The cries of Israel while in Egyptian slavery (Gen. 15:13; Ex. 3:7)
 - i. They cried for deliverance
 - ii. Moses was born
 - iii. After 40 years, Moses visits the Israelites
 - iv. After another 40 years, the Lord calls Moses to deliver Israel out of Egypt
 - v. They cried, God heard, God granted their request and they were released centuries later!
 - b. Joseph (Gen. 37ff)
 - i. Joseph prayed to be delivered from the wrongs that were being done to him
 - ii. God heard Joseph and granted his request—years later!
 2. We can confidently know that God does not ignore our requests
 - God loves us and knows what is best!
 - This is what FAITH in God is all about!