



This is How we Know... That God Hears our Prayers (1 John 3:16 - 24)

Study Notes Handout: April 8th

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me. - Psalm 66:18 - 20

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from Him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him. - 1 John 3:21 - 22

The Apostle John writes this letter to remind Christians that genuine faith is not only a private matter, nor is it only a public matter. It is both. We cannot ignore the needs of those around us, or treat them with disrespect and think that God will hear our prayer. In these verses, John answers the question: What are the conditions for effective praying?

1. Obedience: Doing what Pleases God (vs. 10, 22)
2. Love in Action: Showing the Love of God (vs. 16 - 18)
3. Clean Conscience: In the Presence of God (vs. 19 - 20)
4. Boldness in Prayer: Having Confidence before God (vs. 21 - 24)
5. Abiding in Him: Filled with the Spirit of God (vs. 245)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. Give some examples of love 'with actions and in truth' (vs. 18) that you could show to others? What prevents you from showing such love more often?
- ii. Do you ever feel that your prayers are less effective than the prayers of other Christians?
- iii. Have you had the experience of being in prayer and then having your heart condemn you? (vs. 20) What did you do? What does this Scripture teach about such an experience?



Study and Discussion Questions

1 John 3:16-24

Explore It

1. How do we know what love is? (3:16)
2. What question did the author ask his readers? (3:17)
3. *How should Christians love? (3:18)
4. What is God greater than? (3:20)
5. What is the result of not being condemned by one's heart? (3:21-22)
6. What is God's command? (3:23)
7. *What is the result of obeying God's command? (3:24)
8. How do believers know that God lives in them? (3:24)

Get It

9. How do you demonstrate your love for fellow believers?
10. Why do we struggle with loving other Christians with our material possessions?
11. Why is it easier to love with words rather than actions?
12. In what way does love result in life, and hate result in death?

Apply It

13. How can you use your material possessions to love another believer this week?
14. What specific step will you take this week to put your love for another Christian into action?