



Confidence to Approach God In Prayer

(1 John 5:14 - 17)

Study Notes Handout: June 10th

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him.

- 1 John 5:14 - 15

The normal Christian life is a life is a life of uninterrupted fellowship and communion with God.

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of His willingness.

- George Mueller

Introduction:

Last week we studied what John says about assurance of eternal life for the believer in Christ. He has written *'these things'* - so that (we) may know that (we) have eternal life. (5:13). This confidence with God is meant to extend to all areas of our lives, especially how we pray.

I. Confidence to Petition God for Personal Requests (5:14 - 15)

- Knowing you are accepted by God.
- Knowing your prayer is acceptable to God.
- Knowing your petition is answered if you've prayed according to God's will.

II. Confidence to Intercede on behalf of Other Christians (5:16 - 17)

- Be sure you are in a right relationship with your fellow believer.
- Ask (beseech) God with the same urgency as though it were your need.
- Be clear about the nature of the sin that you are praying about.

Responding to God's Word: Things to Do and Discuss:

- i. What kind of assurance do you have in your relationship with God? Discuss with a Christian friend what causes you the most insecurity in your walk with God. How can you address this?
- ii. Do you find it hard to pray with confidence? Why might this be? Can you think of an area of petition that you can ask God repeatedly for because you know it is His will?
- iii. Has God put another Christian on your mind who is struggling with a sin 'not leading to death'? How can you pray for them? What else might you be able to do in the situation?



Study and Discussion Questions

1 John 5:16-21

Explore It

1. What is sin? (5:17)
2. What sort of protection do Christians enjoy? (5:18)
3. Under whose control is the whole world? (5:19)
4. Who is Jesus Christ? (5:20)

Get It

5. In what way can sin lead to death?
6. In what way has sin led to death in your life?
7. What type of sin does not lead to death?
8. By what modern "idols" are you tempted?
9. About what issue do you need to approach God more confidently?

Apply It

10. What specific step can you take this week to place more confidence in God and less in the idols of this world?
11. For what fellow believer who has sinned will you pray today?