



## **Prayerful & Faithful? (1 John 5:14-21)**

Throughout the history of Christianity, followers of Jesus have been swimming against cultural currents attempting to dilute the claims of Jesus and distract those who obey His teachings. As we face similar situations, will we remain prayerful and faithful?

## **teachingnotes**

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\* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

***BIG TRUTH: Christians are expected to be Prayerful & Faithful.***

**1 John 5:12-13** <sup>12</sup> The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know that you have eternal life**.

John encourages those claiming to follow Jesus to examine the evidence that they know Him, and rest in confidence that they know Him. Here are **3 Characteristics of Christians**:

- 1) **Believe Jesus is the Messiah**. John and other eyewitnesses testify that Jesus IS the Messiah (1:1-3) who lived a perfect life, gave Himself up in a sacrificial death, and rose from the dead. It is through Jesus that we can KNOW that we are FORGIVEN.

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**1 John 1:9** <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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**1 John 2:1-2** <sup>1</sup> My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one. <sup>2</sup> He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

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- 2) **Love Christian brothers & sisters**.

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**1 John 3:16** This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also **lay down our lives** for our brothers and sisters.

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**1 John 4:19-21** <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And we have this command from him: The one who loves God must also **love his brother and sister**.

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- 3) **Love God & obey His commands**. We can't continue to live in sin & walk in darkness (1:6).

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**1 John 2:3-6** <sup>3</sup> This is how we know that we know him: if we **keep his commands**. <sup>4</sup> The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But **whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete**. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup> The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.

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- **MY NOTES** (write your own thoughts here):

## Confidence in Prayer

**1 John 5:14-15** <sup>14</sup> This is the **confidence** we have before Him: If we **ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that **we have what we have asked of Him.**

Followers of Jesus asking that God's **will** be done can have **confidence** that **He hears whatever you ask.**

❓ **The Ultimate Authority is LISTENING.** Are you asking? And...are you asking **according to His will?**

When we have **confidence** that **He hears us**, and **we ask anything according to His will**, we can trust **that we have what we have asked of Him.**

**Christians are expected to be Prayerful & Faithful.**

## Praying for the spiritual condition of others

**1 John 5:16a** <sup>16</sup> If anyone sees a fellow believer committing a sin that doesn't lead to death, **he should ask, and God will give life to him**—to those who commit sin that doesn't lead to death.

*What is the example of a sin that doesn't lead to death?*

- **Some think this refers to physical death.** God sometimes kills people who disobey Him. (e.g. *Ananias & Saphira*; also, *some got sick and died (1 Cor. 11:29-30) because of their abuse of the Lord's Supper*)
- **Others think this refers to spiritual death.** False teachers and those who have followed them - those who refuse to believe that Jesus is fully man and fully God - are facing spiritual death. **It seems most likely that this is what John is referring to.** If so, then John is encouraging believers to pray for Christians who aren't currently walking in purity - we **should ask, and God will give life to him** [the believer caught in sin - that doesn't lead to death]. **Paul encourages believers to make the time and effort to help restore them.**

**Galatians 6:1** Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, **you who are spiritual, restore such a person** with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted.

Examples in Scripture include **confronting, correcting, & restoring**

- **those caught in sexual sin** - man kicked out of Corinthian church (1 Cor 5) and later restored (2 Cor 2).
- Those who **mistreated some based on their race** (Gal 2:11-14 - Peter ditches Gentiles for visiting Jews) **or wealth** (James 2:1-9).

Our greatest example is the Lord Jesus. Jesus, knowing that Peter was about to deny Him briefly, prayed for him.

**Luke 22:31-32** <sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. <sup>32</sup> But **I have prayed for you** that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

**We should pray for those who have fallen.** Confront them with the truth and attempt to help restore them.

❓ **Who is THAT in your life** - one who claims Christ but is caught in sin? Are you PRAYING for him/her? Have you GONE to speak with him/her?

## A sin that leads to death?

**1 John 5:16b-17** **There is sin that leads to death.** I am not saying he should pray about that.

<sup>17</sup> All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin that doesn't lead to death.

**All unrighteousness is sin** that Jesus went to the cross to pay for, and sin that is repented of will be forgiven. But, those who have walked away from Jesus; those who deny Jesus is fully man and fully God, and lead others to do the same, will not be treated as sons, but as enemies.

\* John - the apostle of Jesus, watched someone who claimed to follow Jesus, later betray Him. Jesus DID pray for Simon Peter, but Jesus DIDN'T pray for Judas. Jesus let him walk away and said these words: "*It would have been better for him if he had not been born.*" (Mk 14:21).

Peter later writes about people like Judas who had walked away and deceived others to do the same.

**2 Peter 2:20-22** <sup>20</sup> For if, having escaped the world's impurity through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in these things and defeated, the last state is worse for them than the first. <sup>21</sup> For it **would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than**, after knowing it, **to turn back from the holy command delivered to them.** <sup>22</sup> It has happened to them according to the true proverb: *A dog returns to its own vomit*, and, "*A washed sow returns to wallowing in the mud.*"

John doesn't ban us from praying for these people, but neither does he encourage it.

**Christians are expected NOT ONLY to be Prayerful, but to be FAITHFUL.**

**1 John 5:18-19** <sup>18</sup> We know that everyone who has been born of God does not sin, but **the one who is born of God keeps him**, and the evil one does not touch him. <sup>19</sup> We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.

Followers of Jesus, protected by God, are not to live in sin. We cannot continue to live in sin when the Holy Spirit lives in us. In contrast, **the whole world is under the sway of the evil one**. So, followers of Jesus shouldn't be surprised when we face difficult days and persecution.

**Concluding Words**

**1 John 5:20-21** <sup>20</sup> And we know that **the Son of God has come** and has given us understanding **so that we may know the true One**. We are in the true One—that is, in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Jesus has shown us **the true One** - the only God. Jesus was no mere man and no mere mirage. Those who are **in His Son - Jesus Christ** (Messiah) are sons and daughters of **the true God** and have **eternal life**.

What **idols** is John warning these Christians to **guard** themselves from? An idol is a false god, rather than **the True God**. Anyone or anything that dilutes or distorts who Jesus is and what Jesus says - offering in His place, a pretender, a counterfeit, a false god - is an IDOL.

Besides false teachers attempting to twist the claims and teachings of Jesus, what other people, ideas, or things are attempting to sit on the throne of our hearts rather than Jesus?

• **MY NOTES** (write your own thoughts here):

❓ Does the One True God revealed in our Lord Jesus have your heart? Answer this: **Am I Prayerful & Faithful?**

✗ **If we aren't PRAYERFUL, it's probably because we're PRIDEFUL.**

✗ **If we aren't FAITHFUL it's because we don't trust who Jesus is and what Jesus says.**

**Christians are expected to be Prayerful & Faithful.**

**FEET 2 FAITH**

👉 **Take a WALK and TALK to God!** Talk to God like He WANTS to hear and answer you!

👉 **Ditch the Distractions and give Jesus 1st place.**

**heretoserveyou**

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717).