

# 1 John 5 13-20 "Eternal Life"

**9 TIMES** John uses the word **witness** or **testimony**. **WITNESS:** a person who gives testimony, as in a court of law.

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In last weeks message court was in session and John summons witnesses to the witness box to testify to the truth that *Jesus is the Son of God and the only way to salvation*. Through the magic of time travel, you and I are members of the jury. **"HEAR YE, HEAR YE, COURT IS NOW IN SESSION!"**

**In verse 6 John call water to the stand FOLLOWED BY**  
The **blood** of His crucifixion steps into the witness box.

Now John turns to the **Holy Spirit** and begins his questioning.

➔ The **FATHER** takes the witness box and says... **"This is my Son in whom I am well pleased."**

The **WORD OF GOD** is next and blows the juries mind with objective facts about it's **authenticity**.

**52 hours of eyewitness testimony that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. Mary Magdaline, the 3 men on the road to Emmaus, All the disciples.**

**The Jury was in and proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God and the only way to salvation! PRAY**

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13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may

*continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God. **14** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. **16** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. **17** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death. **18** We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. **19** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one. **20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

In this letter John provides some tests to determine if you are a believer or not. We have already seen some of those tests in earlier chapters. **THERE IS THE TEST OF LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN. DO YOU LOVE OTHER CHRISTIANS? There is the test of righteousness. Do you desire to live correctly and in a way that pleases God?** **THERE IS THE TEST OF RIGHT BELIEVING. HAVE YOU BELIEVED THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, THE MESSIAH THE ONLY WAY TO SALVATION?** **If you pass those 3 tests, mark it down, you are a Christian.**

**1 John 5 verse 13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know** that you **have** eternal life,

and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

**Again, Verse 13 is a strategic verse in this entire letter because it gives us the purpose for John's writing.** **14** Now this is the confidence that we **have** in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if (SINCE) we **know** that He hears us, whatever we ask, we **know** that we **have** the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Notice that the word "**have**" occurs in each verse in verses 13-15. In each case it is associated with one of these 3 things: "**you have eternal life,**" "**THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE,**" and "**WE KNOW WE HAVE THE PETITIONS...**" Notice again how in verse 13-15 the word "**know**" is associated with each of these things: "that you may **know** that you have eternal life," "if we **know** that he hears us in whatever we ask," and "we *know* that we have the petitions we have asked of him." Verses 13-15 speak of 3 things we "**have**" and 3 things we "**know**."

Look at the first use of "have" in verse 15. It is in the present tense in Greek. You may not have the answer immediately, but God has already answered, and in his timing he will send it to you.

**John is trying to point out to us that assurance and confidence in our salvation leads to confidence that God answers prayer.**

I like to thank Him in advance for his answer before I see it physically manifested or spiritually accomplished. That is what John is telling us here. If we know he hears us, then we also know that we have already received the requests we have asked and have confidence even though we have not received it from him yet.


*When we feel as though our prayers are hitting a wall... we must do some investigation.*

**Psalm 66:18** If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.


**If I'm living in rebellion and sin, my prayers will not be answered. Why?**

**Because God is mad at me? No, it's because it's a sign that I'm involved in some sin that, if not dealt with, will wipe me out. Thus, God's failure to answer my prayer is not punishment but protection.**

**1 Peter 3:7** Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

 **Because God wants husbands and wives to walk in unity and love, if a husband is not honoring or loving his wife, his prayers will be hindered as an incentive for him to make things right.**

**Matthew 5:23, 24** Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24** leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

 **When you come to the altar—to the place of worship and petition—and there the Holy Spirit taps you on the shoulder, saying, “This person is deeply and greatly offended with you,” you need to make things right with him before you continue in prayer.**

**John 15:7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will<sup>[b]</sup> ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

 **If we're not in the Word, we can't pray in harmony with the heart of Jesus because we won't know what His will is. Consequently, our prayers won't be heard.**

**IS THERE A SIN YOU'RE HARBORING**

**Men are you honoring your wives?**

**IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP THAT NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED?**

## Are you neglecting the Word?

**These are the issues that will hinder our prayers.**

I suppose if I were to ask you to define prayer, you might say, “Prayer is asking God for something.”

**FOR SOME, GOD IS A CANDY MACHINE. THEY PUT IN A QUARTER, AND IF HE DOES NOT PRODUCE, THEY KICK HIM**

PRAYER IS NOT TRYING TO GET WHAT YOU WANT, BUT WHAT GOD WANTS FOR US. THERE IS A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE TWO. TRUE PRAYER IS WHEN WE COME TO GOD AND ASK WHAT HE WANTS FOR OUR LIVES. C. H. DODD [ PROTESTANT THEOLOGIAN ] SAID, “PRAYER RIGHTLY CONSIDERED IS NOT A DEVICE OF IMPLORING THE SOURCES OF GOD TO FULFILL OUR DESIRES, BUT A MEANS BY WHICH OUR DESIRES MAY BE REDIRECTED ACCORDING TO THE MIND OF GOD AND MADE INTO THE CHANNELS FOR HIS WILL.”

**Prayer is a spiritually real and vibrant activity by which we bring real needs to a real God who has real love for us and real answers to give us.**

Don't miss those 4 crucial words in verse 14: “according to his will.” God is not going to give you a blank check for your prayers any more than you would give your children a blank check for all the requests they have for you.

God is not going to answer all our **wants and greed's**, but he does promise he will answer all of our **needs**, according to his will. Learning the importance of praying in the will of God may be the single most important principle of prayer. Jesus taught us to pray *“Your will be done,” not “your will be changed.”*

Lord is this what you want or what I want... We really only want what He wants because what He wants is always what is best... WHY? He knows the end from the beginning.

**God's will for our lives will never contradict his Word  
His will is always in conformity with his Word**

**Hughes gives a great practical application to this truth...**

When God gives very clear direction on a host of issues as he does in his

Word, that knowledge narrow the scope of our praying. For example, suppose a young Christian lady falls in love with someone who is not a Christian. She wants to get married. But the problem is, Paul says that it is not the will of God for a Christian to be unequally yoked with an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:14-18), which in context can legitimately be applied to marriage. Should she pray and ask God if it is his will for her to marry the man? No, because God has already made his will in that situation explicit for every Christian. There are some things you **don't** need to pray for – God has already made it clear. The first place to go to determine what is and what is not God's will is the Bible.

We should immerse ourselves in Scripture, learn what God **desires** and what he **despises**, then pray accordingly and confidently, as John says.

**As we pray with confidence we remember The Holy Spirit will guide, sometimes through circumstances, He uses godly counsel... All through invigorated prayer.**

**Either he will answer with a direct yes or a direct no, or he may delay the answer, or he may answer your prayer differently than you asked. The early church in Acts prayed for Peter's release from prison, and God answered with a miraculous deliverance. Paul prayed to enter Asia on his missionary journeys, but God said no and redirected him. Mary and Martha prayed for Jesus to come and heal their brother Lazarus, and the Lord delayed his coming for two days. Lazarus died, and Mary and Martha did not understand why the Lord tarried. Jesus answered their prayer by raising Lazarus from the dead, but it was after a delay. Paul prayed that his thorn in the flesh be removed, but God did not answer his prayer for removal. Instead he answered Paul's prayer by adding something to the thorn: his sufficient grace. God declined to answer Paul's prayer with what Paul asked in order to give him what he really needed.**

Don't forget if are to pray in the will of God we have to be willing to **do the will of God.** We can't just desire it, discern it, but then not do it.

**Verse 13 implies that it is possible to be saved and yet still doubt it...**




**David Allen points out** there are many reasons why Christians doubt. **Sometimes it is because they are not living in a right way before the Lord.** Another reason why Christian's doubt is that **God is calling them to a higher plane of Christian service, but they are not responding.** Still another reason why Christians doubt is that the devil knows that they cannot get at some Christians unless he gets them in this way. If he can keep them in a state of doubt, they will not be able to serve God because they are always introspective. Such lack of assurance robs you of your joy in the Christian life. It arrests your spiritual growth. It also cripples your usefulness in the Lords' service. **Your assurance of salvation is a very important thing to know.** **Spurgeon** is correct to point out that it is our duty to obtain full assurance. "We should not have been commanded to give diligence to make our calling and election sure if it were not right for us to be sure. I am sure it is right for a child of God to know that God is his Father, and never to have a question in his heart as to his sonship."

J. C. Ryle has strikingly said, "Faith is the root, and assurance the flower. Doubtless you can never have the flower without the root; but it is no less certain you may have the root, and not the flower." **Be certain of your salvation!**

**16** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. **17** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death.

**1 Samuel 12:23** "Far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you" In the church we need to be praying for one another.

 When we sin, we need some intercessors who will pray for us. Christians need people in the church who will love them enough to pray for them through their spiritual downtimes. Christians in such a condition need to be prayed back to the point of spiritual health and vitality. So don't just stand around, pray for somebody!

Still this is one of the most debated scriptures in the Bible... What is a sin that leads to death?

Apparently John's readers knew what he was talking about, but we are left somewhat in the dark about it.

### **There are 4 major views as to what John means.**

1. The first view is that this is some heinous sin such as murder. Yet there are many murderers whom God has forgiven. Paul comes immediately to mind. This interpretation is unlikely.
2. The second view is that this means apostasy. Here is a person who truly saved and then rejected Jesus, thus committing apostasy. Some believe that the problem with this view is that genuine believers do not apostatize. This interpretation is held by many but is only possible if John is referring to someone in the church who is not a genuine believer.
3. The third view is that John is talking about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, otherwise known as the unpardonable sin. When I was a pastor, people periodically came into my office worried sick whether they had committed the unpardonable sin. The only people who can commit the unpardonable sin are unsaved people. If you are worried you may have committed the unpardonable sin, you haven't committed it. The unpardonable sin is ultimate rejection of Jesus Christ. That's the only sin you can commit in this life that God cannot and will not forgive. I think it is unlikely John is here talking about the unpardonable sin.
4. The fourth view understands "sin that leads to death" to be a reference to some sin committed by a Christian that leads to physical death as a result of God's discipline. In the Bible death can be either physical or eternal. John calls the one who commits "sin leading to death" a "brother." In almost every usage of the word "brother" in 1 John, John refers to believers. Apparently John is talking about the possibility that a Christian can sin in such a way that God may choose to take that Christian out of this world prematurely by physical death. Are there any examples of this in the New Testament? Yes, in Acts 5, we read the account of Ananias and Sapphira, who sold a piece of property and pretended to give all of the proceeds to the church when in reality they kept back part of the money for themselves. They pretended what they gave to the church was all. They lied to God and to the church, and God



struck each of them dead on the spot. The early church was so pure that a lie could not live in its midst. Though some interpreters suggest Ananias and Sapphira were not genuine believers, there is no evidence in the text of Acts that such was the case. Another example is found in 1 Corinthians 11:28-30. Some of the Corinthian believers were partaking of the Lord's Table in an unworthy manner. As a result, some of them were "weak and ill," and some had died prematurely as a result of God's discipline. You might say that John's "sin that leads to death" in the life of a believer is something like a dishonorable discharge. It has nothing to do with eternal salvation. But John does not tell us what the "sin that leads to death" is.

**Before Jeffrey Dahmer died in prison, he had a true, born-again experience and shared the gospel with every prisoner he could.**

***Wait a minute. This guy kills people, cuts up their bodies, puts them in his freezer, and has them for lunch. Then he goes to prison, hears the gospel, gets saved—and now everything's okay? SURE GOES AGAINST WHAT WE THINK IS FAIR DOESN'T IT. SO GLAD GOD IS NOT FAIR! IF HE WAS WE ALL WOULD BURN IN HELL! God loves to show mercy to sinners! Like a Father who receives his lost son! A shepherd who found his lost sheep or a women who finds her prized coin that was lost. Yes, Gods' great joy is in exercising forgiveness to sinners, and Jesus challenges all of us to participate in the great celebration of those who get saved!***

**Yes even the Ted Bundy's and Jeffrey Dahmer's of the world can be forgiven. So we don't know those who have committed sin leading to death... that's why we keep praying. As shocking as that seems, the power of the Cross of Calvary, the matchless mercy of the Master, the unfathomable potency of the blood makes such miracles possible. And although at first it seems disquieting and troubling, in reality it gives me great hope because I know if the Lord can save Jeffrey Dahmer, **He can save me.****

**LOOK WITH ME AT VERSE 18** We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; One of many declarations that true Christians do no practice or live a lifestyle of sin. but he who has been born of God keeps himself, **Jesus Himself guards us... I like that!** and the

wicked one does not touch him. **This word in the original language means more than a superficial touch. It means "to lay hold of". One practical application in the literature was to "set fire to". Satan cannot douse you with gasoline and light you on fire.** IF SATAN CANNOT DRAG YOU TO HELL... HE WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO MAKE YOUR JOURNEY TOUGH. **Romans 16 verse 20...** And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. **19** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

I love the contrast between "we" and "the whole world". We are now under the power of God and the world is under the power of Satan.

Remember only two camps... Jesus cuts our choices to **2** - **2** gates, **2** ways, **2** crowds, **2** DESTINATIONS... It's either **ETERNITY IN HEAVEN** or **ETERNITY IN HELL**. When you enter eternity there's just **2** sections - *smoking or non-smoking*.

**The narrow way is wonderful...** Because of Him we know our "life is not futile" our "failures are not fatal" and "our death will not be final"

**20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

**BEER COMMERCIALS... ILLUSION NOT REALITY.**

Never anyone over 30... If there is a car in the commercial... it's always something wonderful... No simple Fords, or Kia's.. gotta be a Porsche or

Corvette. The women are always *skinny, young and gorgeous*. **You never see a guy with a beer belly. The men are tall and handsome.**

→ Always a party scene with laughter and fun. Everyone is having a great time and you too can have one if you drink our beer.

*Illusion... not reality...* reality is 17 million 600 thousand people suffer from alcoholism. Almost 90,000 die every year from alcohol related deaths... alcohol related accidents are in the 100's of thousands.

**6,000 PLUS TEENS THAT DIE EVERY YEAR BECAUSE OF ALCOHOL.**

Marriages are destroyed, families are wrecked, women are raped... the commercials should have a drunk lying in the gutter drinking a beer... that's more reality than illusion

*In verse 20 John gives us what's true.* **REALITY**... vs. fantasy, illusion, fake, phony. **ILLUSION** that's the smoke and mirrors that the world offers... emptiness.

I want the truth! Jesus is the way, the **TRUTH** and the life.

This world is longing for something real... but grasps for illusions; **emptiness prevails**. John offers us substance, **TRUTH**... Jesus and relationship with the one who made us...

that we may know Him who is **TRUE**; and we are in Him who is **TRUE**, in His Son Jesus Christ. **This is the TRUE God and eternal life.**

Taken from David Allen's commentary on 1 John

In 1994 Northwest Airlines offered some unusual round-trip tickets. Fifty-nine dollars bought a Mystery Fare ticket that provided a one-day trip to an undisclosed American city. Buyers didn't find out where they were heading until they arrived at the airport the day of the flight. Still, the airline had plenty of takers. In Indianapolis fifteen hundred people crowded the airline counter to buy the Mystery Fare tickets that were sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Not surprisingly, when buyers learned their destination, not all were thrilled. One buyer who was hoping for New Orleans but found he had a ticket for Minneapolis walked through the terminal yelling, "I have one ticket to Mall of America. I'll trade it for anything!" Mystery Fare tickets may be a fun surprise for a weekend vacation, but normally the last thing you want is a ticket to a mystery destination. And one time you never want a mystery ticket is on the day of your death. You don't want to face eternity uncertain about whether you will go to Heaven or Hell. Be sure you are really sure.