



As the letter of 1 John nears its end, the Apostle John wants to be sure we realize how great it is that Jesus will give us eternal life if we believe in Him (v. 13) and that Jesus will answer our prayers if we ask of Him (vv. 14-17). It doesn't get much better than that! In our last study we focused on eternal life. In today's study, we'll focus on *prayer*. The truth is, prayer is *wonderful*, but there are some *weird* things about it that we have to understand if it is going to work for us. I don't mean "weird" in the sense of bad. Rather, I mean "weird" in the sense that there are some quirky things about prayer we'd never figure out by ourselves. Stuff about prayer that we need the Bible to inform us on. Bottomline: The more we understand how to get the most out of our prayers to God, the more we're going to experience the power, the peace and the pleasure that only answered prayer provides.

HERE'S WHAT YA GOTTA KNOW WHEN IT COMES TO PRAYER

1. (v. 14) God wants us to know ...
2. (v. 14) God tells us that ...
3. (v. 14) God says there is ...

4. (v. 14) God promises His answers will be ...
5. (v. 15) God will help us see that ...
6. (v. 16a) God calls us to pray for brothers and sisters who ...
7. (vv. 16-17) God warns us not to pray if He decides to ...

HERE'S WHERE WE GOTTA BE WITH PRAYER

1. Be ...
2. Be ...
3. Be ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Read aloud 1 John 5:14-17 in two different translations. Sharing from your own personal experiences with prayer, what have you found wonderful about prayer and what have you found weird about prayer?
2. There is a lot of talk about "freedom of speech" in our country today. Setting politics aside, how amazing is it that the Apostle John tells us we can have "confidence" (freedom of speech) in our prayers to God? How does it help you to know that no topic is off limits between you and the Lord?
3. Our Heavenly Father will always answer our prayers with Yes, No, or Wait. Sometimes, He will also answer with ... *Here's something better*. How have you experienced the Lord answer your prayer with that 4th option?
4. Have you ever thought about the fact that God sometimes uses death, the ultimate discipline, to deal with a child of His, a Christian, that refuses to get right with Him? What does this say to us about God's perspective on sin? How should this impact our prayers for ourselves and others?