

1 John 5:14-21

Announcements:

- Baptisms - **Today!** Not too late (*Holy Spirit leading you?*) - **maybe not the 8:00am service?**
- Foundations class - In **September** (during early service in the youth room), register online.
- Pray over the DR team... Leaves on **Tuesday** for a week...
- Men's and women's study - Groups are live and **registerable!** (fellowship & grow!)

Please open to **1 John chapter 5** (Need a Bible? ...) - **Finishing today! (starting Jude soon! :)**

- Last time: **Can I Get a Witness?** Martyreo = Water, Blood, Spirit, Father, Internal Communion.
- This time: **Last words carrying weight:** (*grandparents, parents, coaches...*) - **John is old.**

Message Title: "Final Instructions"

- **Confidence in Prayer** (verses 14-17)
- **Assurance in Truth** (verses 18-20)
- **Vigilance in Christ** (verse 21)

A final charge, with **reccapping of main themes...**

Re-read vv. 11-13 for context (*all flows from this reality*), and *then read into our opening verses...*

Confidence in Prayer (verses 14-17)

PRAY

V. 14 - Now this is **the confidence** that we have in Him

- **Confidence (parresia)** - "boldness, free access; 'the right of a free citizen to speak openly'"
- at **the parousia (2:28)**, in **relationship (3:21)**, at **judgment day (4:17)**, and **in prayer (v. 14)**
- **Coming as a child to his father**, not a **stranger to meet the CEO...** (*months/gatekeepers*)
- **Toward/Before Him** (not "in") - **face to face... personal access... intimate orientation...**
- **Do you pray like a foreigner or a child?** Just start talking to God, man! - **The veil is torn!**
- **Hebrews 4:16** - "Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace **with boldness (parresia)...**"

In these verses, John instructs prayer in **two realmes**: **petition** (vv. 14-15); **intercession** (vv. 16-17).

Petition

V. 14 - that if we **ask anything** according to **His will** He **hears us**

- **Three parts:**
- **(1) Asking anything** - We can ask about **anything**, and **should ask about everything! (Phil 4:6)**
 - **Ask (aiteō)** = most commonly addressed from **a lesser to greater, child to father...**
never for equals. Posture is humble, honoring, dependent, not bratty or demanding.
 - **Present** - **keep asking, seeking, knocking... Don't give up. Pray without ceasing...**
- **(2) According to His will - (thelema)** - **God's purposes & desires**. What **He delights in**, what is in line with his **character, gospel, mission, love, truth, and goodness**.
 - So then... Our **child-like confidence** is **not presumption... it's alignment!**

- John 15:7-8 - **"If you remain** in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **My Father is glorified** by this, that you **bear much fruit**, and so prove to be My disciples..." - fruit of abiding is prayers that **bring glory!**
- **Jesus prayed** **"not my will, but thy will be done"** (Luke 22:42). And, He encouraged us in **the Lord's prayer**. **"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done"** (Matt 6:10)
- Some say this is **praying weak**; no, it's **praying biblically** (**not genie/vending machine!**)
 - **Daniel 3** - v. 17 - **"our God is "able"...** V. 18, **but "if not"...** (**accepting His will**)
- So then, prayer is **not bending God to our will**; it's **our will... being bent** to His!
 - **Do you trust God's Will for your life?** There may be **things he's working out** you're unaware of... **Do you trust that?** Things he's **building in** your/others?
 - **Do you want God to change or are you willing to be changed?**
 - **Lord, is this what you want or what I want?**
- Any parent who has **told a four-year-old "no" to a third bowl of ice cream** knows **unreasonable / unhealthy** requests can be answered **"no"** with **purpose and love**.
- James 4:3, CSB - **"You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures [passions]."** - Jaime makes the point clear!
- **(3) He hears and we have** - **More than sound reaching the ear**. It carries... **hearing favorably** with the **intent to respond**. **All throughout OT - remembrance, inclining his ear!**
 - So also, yes, **pray with great faith!!!!** **Not a watered down, doubting faith...** **God hears!**

V. 15 - And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions (requests) that we have asked of Him**

- The **if** is better translated **since** ...we **know we already "have"** what we asked. *The point?*
- **God does not misplace your requests or forget about them** (*not like a person who told you months ago... but...*). **Do you think God gets lazy or forgets? No!! He heard you and He has your prayer! In His wisdom & timing** (**may not be immediately**), the **answer is coming!**
 - **Garth Brooks** - "Sometimes I thank God for **unanswered prayers...**" - Hmmm...?
 - **I know what Garth means**. However; **I think God does answer** (no ,yes, or not yet...)
 - Peter Miraculously **Delivered** (Acts 12)
 - Mary/Martha **Delayed** (John 11)
 - Paul Divinely **Redirected** (Acts 16)
 - Paul **Denied/Resupplied** (2 Cor 12)
- **God answered all, but differently!** Even a **"no"** is still **"heard"**! Have **Confidence** in that...

Intercession

Not only to be self centered/self absorbed in our prayers: **petitions, confessions, thanksgiving, adorations and praises, but also intercessions!**

- And **God heard the cries...** (**Abraham - Sodom/Gomorrah | Moses - Israelites**)
- Prayer is **a rescue mission within the church body and in the world**.
- 1 Samuel 12:23, ESV - **"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way."**
- This is **covenant love**. The **New Testament assumes you will be praying** for one another...

V. 16 - If anyone sees his brother sinning **a sin which does not lead to death**, he will ask (should pray), 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.

- This verse = **Witnessing sin**. **Anyone sees** (not hearsay) (accountable) **Sinning** (present)
- **He shall ask** (aiteo) (future active indicative) - the **assumed act of Christian love** - do you?
- **Few tricky little elements (buggars!)**:
 - **Brother** - **Narrow or broad use? First only not second?**
 - **He will give life** - **Physical or Spiritual** (and depth: **sanctifying or eternal?**)
 - **Sin leading to death**: We **don't have the "key"** the early church did. Consider options:
 - **Physical Death** - OT Capital Offenses (e.g., murder), Ignorance/Presumptuous Sin (Num. 15 = "cut off from people"); Church Discipline (1 Cor. 5); Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5); Communion Abuse (1 Cor 11:30)
 - **Spiritual Death** - Apostasy (Hebrews 6 (loss of salvation? Believer or never was?)); Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12 & Mark 3 (can commit today?)); *Mortal/Venial sins developed later... (Roman Catholic); False Teachers (**fits context best here!**)
 - **The Christian** has already '**passed from death to life**' (3:14)
 - **False Ones** = who "**went out from us, but they were not of us**" (2:19)
- Whatever the case, John **does not encourage prayer** (though **He does not forbid**) - some might **struggle here**, but there is **a settled sense that God has Judged** (**Jeremiah / Judah**)
 - **If you're worried**, it's **a clear indicator you're NOT** in this category...

V. 17 - **All unrighteousness is sin**

- Oh and BTW, **God has an objective moral stand**. John is **not minimizing** the other sins...
- **We've all broken God's Law, We all need Jesus!**

Not our job to declare who's in/out, but for our purpose today, **the point is not so much diagnosing the particular sin**, but that when you **see a brother struggling in sin, you would pray for them**...

- **James 5:15-16, 19-20, CSB** - "**The prayer of faith** will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed... My brothers and sisters, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, let that person know that **whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death** and cover a multitude of sins..."

So, we are people who **pray boldly with faith**, **humbly in alignment**, and **intercessory for the struggling**...

Assurance in Truth (verses 18-20)

Know (oidamen) = "to see, perceive, experience, pay attention to (settled, certain knowledge)"

- John hammers it **three times to close the letter** (vv. 18, 19, 20). **Assurance is not feelings...**

First "Know"

- **God's Power in our lives...**

V. 18 - We know that **whoever is (has been) born of God...**

- **Born of God** (gennao ek tou Theou) ...running all through (2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1). **Ez 36, Jer. 31**

- **New identity and reality of living!** A birth is *something done TO you, not achieved BY you*...
- ...what *these beloved brethren of ours* are **professing at the waters of baptism this morning**.

V. 18 - Born of God... **does not (continue to make a practice of) sin (present tense)**

- **Not describing sinless perfectionism**. Covered in **1 John 1:5-2:2**, has to do with *active direction, not occasional slipups*... **No longer at "home" with sin**. **At peace or at war with it?**

V. 18 - But he who has been (was) **born of God keeps himself (him)**

- **Grammar is difficult here**. **Who is keeping who?**
- **Verb tense changes**. **Perfect Aspect** (past with ongoing); **Aorist** (a single undivided fact)
 - **Deliberate change to aorist signals now pointing to a different figure**.
- **Auton (personal pronoun): he, she, it, himself, herself, itself** (I do not like, *"himself"* (NKJV))
 - Based on that = **Referring to Jesus here!** (*all newer translations, especially NIV/NLT*)
 - **"The God-begotten are also the God-protected!"** (MSG)
- Your security is **not your grip on Him but His grip on you**. (**Cliff jumping in Blue Hole**)
- **1 Peter 1:3-5** - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **who are kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time..." - **Reservations! Love it!**
- **Jude 24, NASB** - "Now **to Him who is able to keep you** from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy" + **Phil 1:6** - **He who began will complete!**

V. 18 - And **the wicked one does not touch** him.

- Clearly a reference to **the devil or any angelic/human agent** being used by Him...
- **Touch (hapto)** = "to fasten to a thing, lay hold of; kindle, set a fire" (*something gripping...*)
- **John 10:27-28, NASB** - "My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and **no one will snatch them out of My hand**." - sure, the **devil may harass/oppress**, but he **cannot have a grip**, **Christ does!** (Job?)

Second "Know"

- **Our Position in Him...**

V. 19 - We know that **we are of God** - **Our citizenship is in heaven!** (**Phillippians 3:20**) (**"WE"**)

V. 19 - And (yet) the **whole world lies under the sway** of the wicked one. **Two locations, dominions**

- **2 Corinthians 4:4, NLT** - "**Satan, who is the god of this world**, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God..."
- **Lies under the sway of wicked one**... implies the "world" is **lulled by this... and unconsciously sleepy in the grip of Satan**. **But not you... Christian!**
 - **C.S. Lewis** (*in Mere Christianity*) describes the world as **"Enemy-occupied territory"** where *humanity lives under rebel occupation*, but **Jesus comes as the rightful king!**
- **Ephesians 2:1-5, CSB** - "You were dead in your trespasses and sins **in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air**, the spirit now working in the [sons of] disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature

children under wrath as the others were also. **But God, who is rich in mercy**, because of his great love that he loved us with, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!”

Third “Know”

- **The truth of God and Eternal life...**

V. 20 - And we know that **the Son of God has come** - amen, **incarnation!** (essential doctrine!)

V. 20 - And **has given us an understanding** - **Not the gnostics**, but “**true believers**” (enlightened!)

V. 20 - That we may **know Him who is true** - **Not a false god or false savior**, or made up version...

V. 20 - And we are **in Him who is true**, in His Son Jesus Christ - Not just knowledge, **but belonging**.

V. 20 - This is the **true God and eternal life**. - **Pointing to Father/Son?** **Preceding subject** = **Jesus!**

True (alethinos) (3 times!) - “real in nature, true, genuine, authentic (opposite of what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, or pretended)”

- **Let's go!** **The world** will offer you **all the counterfeits/pretenders**, **but they are NOT true....**
- Jesus is the **true bread from heaven (John 6:32)** and the **true vine (John 15:1)**
- **John 17:1-5, NET** - “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that your Son may glorify you... so that he may give eternal life to everyone you have given him. Now this is eternal life—that they know you, **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I glorified you on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me at your side with the glory I had with you before the world was created...”

We have Assurance in the truth!

- So then, be aware, friends, **the opposite of the true Savior is a false one... an idol.**

Vigilance in Christ (verse 21)

A fitting conclusion to the letter. **Assurance and guarding against...**

V. 21 - Little (dear) children, **keep (guard) yourselves from idols.**

- **Dear children** is **a loving address** and closing... **A father's affection...**
- **Keep (guard)** - **A father's urgency... Love & warning together.** (**military**: guarding a post!)
- Yes, **Christ keeps guard over us**, but **we are also to be on guard...** (**not passive!**)
- Don't just **lay in the hammock**, son (**don't be lulled...**) **Build that immune system!**
- **Idols**: Illusions of reality (Plato); covetousness of the heart (Col. 3:5) (“perpetual factory of idols” (Calvin)); Ephesus (Temple of Diana); False Gospels... (the ‘definite article’ matters!)
- **10 Commandments (Ex. 20:3-6)**: Golden Calf, Ba'al, Asherah, Molek, Babylon, Antiochus, etc.
- **Definite Article** = **THE idols** = **false versions of Jesus!** (**keep guard against false teachers**)
- **Jeremiah 10** is a classic picture of this (dealing with “**physical idol**” worship...) (**lists them...**)
- **Jeremiah 10:10** - “But the Lord is the **true God**; He is the living God and the everlasting King...”

Closing

Today, as we baptize, we celebrate those who have **turned from idols** to serve the **true and living God...** and **we recommit ourselves to the same!**

- **Assurance in Truth** - Baptism is a public declaration (*pray for them...*)

Altar Call, Call to Response... Belief and confessions! (Romans 10:9-10)

Baptisms!

PRAY