

1 John 5:13-21

Confidence Because of Who You Know

Image Church // First John: Week 10

Introduction

Welcome guests...

If you have your Bible, turn to 1 John... Chapter 5... Finishing series!

- *If you don't have a Bible, we have one for you at the Connection Center!*

Illustration: Waiting on Jacob Stallings...

- Getting on the field is like trying to get on the field at the ATL Braves Stadium on game day is like trying to get into Fort Knox...
- I had a buddy I played with in college who was playing against the Braves... Had texted Him He knew we were there...
- They weren't doing BP that day, so couldn't go down there for that... Turns out he had gotten hurt the night before, so it was taking him a while to get out before the game...
- We were waiting by the visitor dugout... Blistering hot
- Getting close to start time the guy starts telling ppl they need to get to their seats...
- I told the guy our situation and he let us stay...
- Jacob finally comes out... Guy that works there is like yall want to come on the field?!? We go out there to hang and talk...
- The only way we got on the field was because of who I knew...

See I had confidence in my guy, and the wait was worth it...

- Life is like that wait, it's hard, it's uncomfortable, but in the end if you have confidence in who you know then it's all worth it...

This is how John's going to wrap up the end of His letter... It's all about who you know... Confidence and assurance in this life isn't found in you, it's found in who you know...

1 John 5:13-21

¹³ 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.

So here it is... This is John's purpose for why He's written this letter...

Believe in Jesus...

- We have talked about this a lot, but this is more than just acknowledging that He exists...
- **Example:** *the demons acknowledge Jesus*
 - **Mark 1:24** *they call Jesus the Holy One of God...*
 - **Luke 8** *a demon-possessed man falls at the feet of Jesus and addresses Him as Jesus, Son of the Most High God...*

The reason why this is so important is because we live in a culture where **salvation is assumed** by belief **that**, and not belief **in**...

- I've told you the difference between the 2... Belief **that**, is something you declare... Belief **in**, is something you surrender your life to!
- One is words that you say the other impacts the life that you live!
 - This is what John's been showing us over and over again throughout his letter here in **1 John**...

Illustration: *I went to the jump park for a birthday party yesterday...*

- A lot of parents who believe that, and not believe in...

John wants us to **BELIEVE in Jesus... SO THAT** (*purpose*)

We can know that we have eternal life...

- When he says eternal life, he's not talking about an abstract reality, he's talking about being in a relationship with God forever...
 - He's pointing to a hope beyond this life...
 - *Pastoral appeal to where people are...*
 - *The quest for a relationship with God...*

Believe is the keyword here!

Jesus came and lived in your place and died in your place, and He rose from the dead to give you access to God forever!

- **John calls us to believe...**
 - And the beauty of his call is that your access to God isn't contingent on you!
 - Not a prayer, not an emotional experience...
 - It's all about faith...

Appeal:

Some of you are:

- In a quest for God... You know things aren't right, and so you're looking for answers...
- You want to see change happen in your life...
- Some of you have been around religion and grown up knowing about God, but you've never seen any real benefits from God...
- Some of you, like me, have prayed a prayer a bunch of times, but you're still wondering...
- Some of you are walking through something...

Would you believe in Jesus...

Some of you today need to be reminded that your Christian assurance doesn't rest on you, it rests on what you believe about JESUS!

Christians you need to be reminded of this...

- **Evidence? SHAME...**
- John says to **believe in Jesus** so that you may know you have eternal life with God...

John's pointing to a confidence that we can have in Christ...

- **1 John 3:1:** *See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him.*

God wants us to know that we are His children and that our Christian experience is real...

And here's the beautiful thing that John's going to point us to... **God listens to His children...**

Verse 14:

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.

Confidence in the Christian life isn't just about what to come, but what we have access to now!

John could have gone a lot of directions with this... Why prayer?

*Because prayer is that act by which we turn our will to God, prayer is of the very essence of [Christianity]... Prayer is the most direct expression of faith... Prayer is turning our thoughts and wills to God.*¹

¹ Robert W. Yarbrough, 1–3 John, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008), 298.

Here's the thing, confidence in your salvation should lead to a confident prayer life.

- It's not until you really know and understand that you're a child of God that you're going to be serious about prayer...

At the root of your prayer life is **faith in who God is...**

- **Your prayer life is an indicator of how much confidence you have in God...**
 - A weak prayer life means that you have a weak confidence in God...

Which is crazy because you believe God for your salvation, but you can't believe Him when it comes to your circumstances?!?

This is the **second** time that John talked about a **confidence that accompanies salvation when it comes to prayer...** Both angled in the same direction... Which is praying in line with God's heart...

If we ask anything according to his will...

- *God's will is about His own glory (Eph 1:9), and you being conformed into the image of Christ (Eph 2:10, Rom. 8:29)...*
- Pray in line with either of these things and you can have confidence...
 - **Jesus in the Garden**, not my will but you're will be done... God, I want what you want because I know in the end it will be better than what I want...

Now, again, here's the thing that we have to understand when it comes to all of this: Just because we don't get the answer that we wanted or in the way we wanted to receive it doesn't mean that we didn't receive what we asked for!

- *Often times we don't know what we need...*

Illustration: When kids get hungry, they don't know or even understand what they need... They just know they are hungry, but as

adults, we know the kind of food to give them that meets the needs that they have...

- I think this is a picture of how of how this fits together...

Example: Philippians 4:6-7 ⁶ Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [ANSWER] ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Here's the thing I want you to see... **Your prayer life is an indicator of how much confidence you have in God...**

- Confidence in your salvation should lead to confidence in your prayer life!

Prayer is a powerful tool that god's given us to put our faith in action and to submit our will to God...

*[BTW: THIS MONDAY, we are kicking off our weekly prayer meeting that's happening over ZOOM at 7:30 link on the church calendar]

Application of the power of prayer and the role prayer plays in our sanctification... **Verse 16** ¹⁶ 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. There is sin that leads to death. I am not saying he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin that doesn't lead to death.

A couple of things to talk about here...

Sin that doesn't lead to death... *Spiritually speaking...*

- *Sin where forgiveness is offered...*

The sin that does lead to death... **Rejection of Jesus**

- The one place forgiveness isn't extended if this is held until the end...

- Remember: that's what's happened within the church here... *Seem's that John's saying I'm not calling you as the church at large to pray for that right now...*

Application: There's an important key here to all of this...

Repentance...

The goal of the Christian life isn't perfection, it's confession...

- 1 John 1:9...

Now we're going to see why this is so important and how it all fits together in **verse 18:**

¹⁸ 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.

everyone who has been born of God does not sin...

- Lifestyle... Unrepentant...
- This isn't an excuse for cheap grace either...

the evil one does not touch him.

- Don't mean won't afflict...
- Means, can't take you out of God's hand... John 10:28-29

Verse 19:

¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.

Ephesians 2... Saved out from under the power and influence of Satan... ²

² Great resource: John Piper, *What we are up Against*.
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/what-are-we-up-against>

Verse 20:

²⁰ 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. ²¹ Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Gospel...

Proverbs says 24:16 says: "The righteous man falls seven times, and rises again."

- Righteous people fall so much that it sometimes seems they can barely walk! But each time, they get back up and look at Jesus.
- Your salvation is not demonstrated by never falling, but by what you do when you fall...
- Conversion is not sinless perfection, but it is a new direction.³

Conclusion [VAMP]

Final Application to 1 John:

We live in a depraved world that seeks to deceive us away from the truths of Jesus...

Assurance when it comes to your salvation is found through the person and work of Jesus...

- Holy Spirit in you confirms this...

What does the Holy Spirit do in you?

Reorients your perspective and pursuit in this life...

- What Jesus has done for us should flow through us toward one another...

³ JD Greear, *Being Certain that you are Certain*, Assured #1.

This won't happen *perfectly* but it will happen *progressively...*

- Turning back to Jesus over and over again...

Call to believe

Call to be baptized

- *Card in the seatback...*