

# LETTERS OF John

1 & 2 & 3 John

## The Letters of John | “Get Out of the Way”

### 1 John 5:13-21

...Asbury Awakening→We can't cause revival...but we can get out of the way.→1 Jn. 5:13-21

*When I arrived, I saw hundreds of students singing quietly. They were praising and praying earnestly for themselves and their neighbors and our world—expressing repentance and contrition for sin and interceding for healing, wholeness, peace, and justice. - Asbury Observer // J.Edwards = A true revival = elevates Christ, opposes sin/Satan, prizes the Bible, distinguishes truth from error, & manifests love. // ME = PRAYER!!*

→Summary: Prayer. What is the point? What makes us selfish in our evangelism is often times proved in our prayer lives. If God answered all of our prayers, would the world change, or just OUR world? As John comes to a conclusion, He wants His spiritual family to KNOW they can have confidence in their prayers to God. As believers, we have access to the God of all Creation, Jesus in the flesh, who desires to move. Confidant prayer moves us out of His way.

→What confident prayers move us out of the way?→BP Graphic→To download, [Click here!](#)

→Text Background: John writes to rebut deceptive teaching advocating for compromise. His churches were influenced by Gnostics who believed “sin” was ignorance of spirit’s superiority over matter, thus anything done in the body didn’t matter; Cerinthians, a specific form of Gnosticism; and the Docetists who believed Jesus was only a divine mirage. John challenges our faith through the right view of Jesus (**doctrine**) & keeping His commands/love (**praxis**).

**1 John 5:13-21:** *13 I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. 14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.*

**13-15→Pray for what pleases God.**→...ME!?→“Lord give me patience...”→What drives me crazy...pleases God.

- We KNOW what pleases God, don't we?→KNOW = 7 in 12 verses (Light 6; love 33; life 15; know 38)
- Start with The Lord's Prayer.→Click to download prayer guide.
  - Intro (Reverence), worship, submission, provision, forgiveness, protection, Conclusion (Praise)
  - If OUR hearts aren't worshipping...submitting...receiving...forgiving...ensnared...we will GET IN THE WAY.
  - Religion = I messed up. God will be angry. // GOSPEL = I messed up.→My dad will fix this.

→TRANSITION: We can be confident in praying for what pleases God. What else pleases God? John continues...

*16 If you see a fellow believer sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life. But there is a sin that leads to death, and I am not saying you should pray for those who commit it. 17 All wicked actions are sin, but not every sin leads to death. 18 We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them. 19 We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.*

*20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.*

**16-20→Pray for others.**→A lot of our prayers are for us...but what about others?→...but DO NOT affirm their sin.

- Sin that leads to death (Rom. 6:23) = Capital Offense. Apostasy. Denying the HS (Mt. 12, Lk. 12, Mk. 3) = Pharaoh

- Sin that doesn't lead to death?! = Keep praying!→VISION: Zoom Prayer→“Unanswered prayers. Unprayed for answers.”→Jesus intercede for us! Rom. 8:34→The Holy Spirit intercedes for us! Rom. 8:26-27
- I fail to pray for others.→Click to download Prayer/Invite Tool.→Pray. Invest. Invite.
- **WARNING:** God may revive the next generation in a way that looks a little differently than he did ours!→Read Quote!

→TRANSITION: We can be confident in praying for others without expectations of what it should look like.

*21 Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.*

**21→Pray without compromise.**→Compromise will ALWAYS erode your confidence!→Repentance = TURNING! 180

- What is an idol to John?→Ex 34:14 - “jealous God”→God KNOWS if we serve anything else, we will be destroyed.
- **Modern Day Idols (Tim Keller Quote):** ID. Materialism. Money. Career. Physical appearance. Family. Freedoms. Pride. Sex. Power. Fame. Entertainment. Comfort. Technology.
  - How do I know? What consumes you? Time, energy, focus, joy...?
  - Repent: Take Communion this morning...repenting from the areas of your compromise.
  - Remove yourself from areas/situations where you are weak / need to grow.
- VISION: We want to see God move in Orange County!→Prayer: Lord, start in us!

→TRANSITION: We can be confident when we repent of compromise.

→**We can be confident our prayers make a difference!**

**TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.**

1. How would I describe my prayer life? Do my prayers move me out of the way for God to move?
2. What kind of prayers please God? How does “the Lord's prayer” please God?
3. Do I pray for people in my life to experience the true God, Jesus who IS eternal life? Why / why not?
4. What modern day idols have the most access to tempt me? How does God help me?
5. **PRAYER:** “Father, give me the confidence to pray bold prayers that move me out of the way for you to move!”

## QUOTES:

- *When I arrived, I saw hundreds of students singing quietly. They were praising and praying earnestly for themselves and their neighbors and our world—expressing repentance and contrition for sin and interceding for healing, wholeness, peace, and justice.* - **Asbury Observer**
- *“Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it.”* - **Leonard Ravenhill**
- *“Christian, if today Jesus said to you, ‘I’m going to answer every single prayer you prayed last week.’ If he said that to you tonight, would there be anybody new in the Kingdom of God tomorrow? Are we praying fervently, consistently and expectantly for lost people?”* - **Lee Strobel**
- *“The human heart is a perpetual idol factory.”* - **John Calvin**
- *“The human heart is an idol factory that takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think, they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them.”* - **Tim Keller**

## Asbury Participant Interpretation by Madison Pierce (via FB post)

- **Madison Pierce** - *I’m hesitant to post my thoughts on what’s happening in Wilmore. A few of you may have heard about the “Revival” at Asbury University. I attended the gatherings from the first day til now. A chapel service that didn’t stop but continued spontaneously for 9 days now. It was an intimate space for students but it is now the focus of global intrigue, mass pilgrimage, and digital evaluation. I am aware that not everyone has a paradigm for this form of spirituality but I want to be honest to my own understanding.*

*I come from a spiritual background that has left me weary of hype in a culture of spectacle. I’ve grown tired of disintegrated representations of divine work but it is clear God is moving in a surprising and transformative way. However, when you think of “revival”, what comes to mind might not be what’s happening.*

*To quote Professor McCall, a theology professor at Asbury Seminary, “what we are experiencing now—this inexpressibly deep sense of peace, wholeness, holiness, belonging, and love—is only the smallest of windows into the life for which we are made.”*

*The movements of the spirit in western evangelicalism always exist in the middle of a cultural moment. A generous interpretation of these movements reveals unique traits for each one. For example, fervor for the great commission at the Mt. Hermon Conference, overwhelming joy in Toronto Outpouring, zeal for the lost in Brownsville Revival, acts of healing at the Kansas City awakening, and manifestation of tongues at the Azusa Street revival. In each move of the spirit, God clearly manifests in a specific way for that generation. I find it interesting that God would mark this outpouring with:*

*A tangible sense of peace for a generation with unprecedented anxiety.*

*A restorative sense of belonging for a generation amidst an epidemic of loneliness*

*An authentic hope for a generation marked by depression.*

*A leadership emphasizing protective humility in relationship with power for a generation deeply hurt by the abuse of religious power.*

*A focus on participatory adoration for an age of digital distraction.*

*It feels as if God is personally meeting young adults in ways meaningful to them. My generation was formed differently than previous generations and so the traits of this revival are different than revivals of old. The new outpouring is not the signs and wonders nor zealous intercession nor spontaneous tongues nor charismatic physicalities nor the visceral travail. It is marked by a tangible feeling of holistic peace, a restorative sense of belonging, a non-anxious presence through felt safety, repentance driven by experienced kindness, humble stewardship of power, and holiness through treasuring adoration.*

*It is important to reflect on the words of Jesus “no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.”*

*I don’t want to make the mistake of trying to fit this new work into old paradigms. The new wine cannot be understood with the old expectations of revival.*

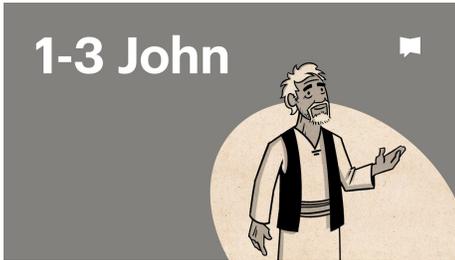
*As the revival has grown, people attempt to evaluate and participate from their old expectations. You cannot keep new wine in the old wineskin; or it may cause disappointment, disillusionment and divisiveness. In humility, we must receive the new wine with an open hand without trying to force this spiritual movement into our well intended but old expectations of renewal. We must strive to humbly participate, appreciatively celebrate, and intentional respond to this surprising work of the spirit with openness and hunger.*

## RESOURCE LINKS:

- **Jonathan Edwards on Revival (Christianity Today Website):** [Click here!](#)
- **New Year’s Message & FREE “Spiritual Growth Plan”** - [Click here!](#)
- **Barna Website:** “Almost Half of Practicing Christian Millennials Say Evangelism Is Wrong” - [Click here!](#)

## GRAPHICS / VIDEOS:

- Bible Project **123 John Graphic**: [Click here!](#)
- Bible Project **Video**: [Click Here for Youtube Separate Browser Window.](#)



## SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **John 1:8** - John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light.
- **Exodus 34:14** - You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.
- **Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 8:26-27** - And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.
- **Romans 8:34** - Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

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