

Dear John Series: Confident Praying

1 John 5:14-17

June 28, 2020

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we asked of him.

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

1. A child of God has confidence in approaching God in prayer. (Vss. 13-15)

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we asked of him.

Our confidence lies in two areas:

- **Confidence comes from a clean heart.**

3²¹ *Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight.* (1 John 3:21-22)

- **Confidence comes from praying in God's will.**

5¹⁴ *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we asked of him.* (1 John 5:14-15)

2. A child of God has a responsibility to intercede for others.

(Vss. 16-17)

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.*

What is “*the sin that leads to death*”?

- It could be a specific sin so terrible that it results in such guilt or anger that it could lead to suicide or murder.
- Some suggest it could refer to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12) or apostasy.
- It could be a pattern of consistent disobedience that refuses to repent and hinders the work of God.

Why is it important for us to pray for those we observe to be entangled in sin?

- **Because of the impact sin can have on the one entangled.**
- **Because of what might happen to us.**