

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



“What We KNOW”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): 1 John 5:13-21; 1 Jn. 1:4; 1 Jn. 2:1, 12-14, 21, 25-26; Num. 15:27-31; Jn. 10:27-30; Jn. 17:3

There are seasons when we need more than vague spiritual encouragement. We need to know where we stand. We need to know what we have. We need to know that, in the middle of our weakness, confusion, questions, and battles, eternal life is not something we are trying to earn, but something we have been given in Messiah Yeshua. John closes this letter by bringing us back to the heart of why he has written: *“I wrote these things to you who believe in the name of Ben-Elohim, so you may know that you have eternal life”* (1 Jn. 5:13).

And from there, John begins to speak again and again about what “we know.” *We know* that God hears us. *We know* that we have what we ask when we ask according to His will. *We know* that the one born of God does not keep walking in sin. *We know* that we are of God. *We know* that the Son of God has come and has given us insight so that we may know Him who is true. So rather than leaving us shaken and afraid, remembering “what we know” is meant to call us to assurance, to prayerful love for one another, and to a guarded, faithful allegiance to the True One.

1. WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

John says, *“I wrote these things to you who believe in the name of Ben-Elohim, so you may know that you have eternal life”* (1 Jn. 5:13). He does not say, “so you may wonder,” or “so you may hope maybe someday.” He says, “so you may know.” This has been the heartbeat of the letter. He has written so our joy may be full. He has written so we will not sin, but if anyone does sin, we have an Intercessor with the Father—the righteous Messiah Yeshua. He has written because our sins have been forgiven on account of His name, because we have known the Father, because the Word of God abides in us, and because we have overcome the evil one.

This assurance is not rooted in self-confidence. It is rooted in Messiah. It is rooted in the One who has brought eternal life, cleanses sin, intercedes with the Father, atones for our sin, destroys the works of the evil one, and demonstrates the love of God. John wants the people of God to rest in what Messiah has done and to walk in the family resemblance of the Father. Eternal life is not merely an idea we believe in; it is the life of God given to those who believe in the name of *Ben-Elohim*.

2. WE KNOW THAT GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY ACCORDING TO HIS WILL

John continues, *“Now this is the confidence we have before Him—that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have the requests we have asked from Him”* (1 Jn. 5:14-15). This confidence

is the freedom to come fully before Him, not trying to bend His will to ours, but bringing ourselves into alignment with His will. Prayer is not a way of imposing our desires on God. True prayer is a continual surrender that says, “Your will be done.”

And as John moves into verses 16 and 17, we see that this is not selfish prayer. The focus is not my list of personal cravings. It is prayer within the community of God’s people. *“If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he should ask, and God will give life to those who commit sin not leading to death”* (1 Jn. 5:16). This is still in the context of loving one another. We pray for one another. We watch over one another. We guard one another. When we see a brother or sister beginning to veer off the path, we do not simply criticize, gossip, or withdraw. We ask God on their behalf.

3. WE KNOW THE TRUE ONE, SO WE GUARD OURSELVES FROM THE FALSE

John says, *“We know that anyone born of God does not keep on sinning; rather, the One born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot touch him”* (1 Jn. 5:18). This does not mean believers never stumble. John has already said, *“If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us”* (1 Jn. 1:8). But it does mean that the one born of God does not settle into sin, defend sin, celebrate sin, or choose a path of ongoing rebellion against God. There is a difference between stumbling and setting one’s heart defiantly against ADONAI.

Then John brings the letter to its final declaration: *“We know that Ben-Elohim has come and given us insight, so that we may know Him who is true—and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Yeshua the Messiah. This One is the true God and eternal life”* (1 Jn. 5:20). And then comes the final command: *“Children, guard yourselves from idols”* (1 Jn. 5:21). It may feel sudden, but it is not random. If He is the True One, then we must guard ourselves from every false thing, every imitation, every lie, every darkness that tries to pull us away from life and into death.

CONCLUSION

John’s closing word is not meant to terrify the tenderhearted believer. It is meant to strengthen us. You can know that you have eternal life. You can come before the Father with confidence when you ask according to His will. You can pray for your brothers and sisters when they stumble. You can rest in the guarding hand of Messiah and in the care of the community of faith. You can know the True One, abide in the True One, and refuse the idols that compete for your heart.

Through John, the Holy Spirit has been reminding us; Remain in Yeshua. Abide in Him. Bring your darkness into His light. Stop playing games with sin. Do not claim fellowship with the One who is light while choosing to walk in darkness. But if you have sinned, come honestly. Confess it. Say the same thing about it that He says. He is faithful and righteous to forgive and cleanse. Today, surrender again to the True One. Ask Him to align your will with His, to renew your confidence in eternal life, and to teach you to love the family of God by praying, guarding, and walking together in the light.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. John says he wrote so believers may “know” they have eternal life. Where do you most often struggle with assurance, and how does 1 Jn. 5:13 speak to that struggle?
2. What is the difference between asking God to bless your own desires and praying according to His will?
3. In 1 Jn. 5:16, John calls believers to pray for a brother or sister who is sinning. How can we practice this today without becoming judgmental, passive, or gossip-driven?
4. John ends with, “*Children, guard yourselves from idols*” (1 Jn. 5:21). What are some modern “idols” that can quietly compete with loyalty to the True One?
5. What would it look like this week to actively guard your heart, your home, and your community from the things that pull people away from life in Messiah?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Avinu Malkhenu, Our Father, Our King, thank You that in Messiah Yeshua we can know that we have eternal life. Teach us to rest in what You have done, not in our own strength or performance. Give us confidence to come before You in prayer, not trying to bend Your will to ours, but surrendering our will to Yours. Make us a people who love one another enough to pray, to guard, to restore, and to walk together in the light. Keep us from the false things that compete for our hearts. Open our eyes to know Him who is true, and help us remain in Him, Yeshua the Messiah, the true God and eternal life.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.