

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**John: That You Might Know
I John 5:13-21
April 6, 2017**

I. John's purpose is for us to enjoy the full assurance of our salvation.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

cf. John 20:31; I John 1:1-3,7 ; 2:1

A. John's 4-part agenda in his writings:

1. Hear the truth.
2. Believe the truth.
3. Live the truth.
4. Be assured in the truth.

B. Assurance isn't automatic, it must be cultivated.

II. Assurance makes us bold in our personal prayers of petition.

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

cf. John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; Romans 8:15; Matthew 26:39; Philippians 1:9-10; James 14-15

A. Confident in our access to God.

B. Comprehensive in our asking.

C. Expectant in God's acting.

D. The key: pray in accordance with God's will.

1. Pray submissively.
2. Pray biblically.

III. Assurance makes our prayer life others-centered and missional.

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

cf. I Peter 2:9; Matthew 9:36-38

A. We are blessed to be a blessing, not to be self-indulgent.

B. Specifically, we pray for each other's holiness.

C. What is the sin that leads to death? Rejecting Christ.

IV. Assurance makes us confident in life.

¹⁸ We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. ¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.
cf. John 6:37; Romans 8:38-39; I John 2:17; 3:1; John 1:14; Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 8:18-9:7

- A. We know we have security.
- B. We know we belong.
- C. We know we have truth.

Guard against idols:

- 1. False gospels
- 2. Imaginary Jesuses

Discussion Questions

- 1. According to John, how can we be assured our prayers will be answered?
- 2. What conditions are given and how can we cultivate our ability to meet those conditions?
- 3. One of John's main themes in this letter is for Christians to love one another. How can we love one another in our personal prayer life?
- 4. Of the flurry of encouraging truths and promises John lists in vv.18-21, which do you find most encouraging? Why?

Going Deeper

- 1. We all struggle from time to time in our assurance of salvation. What are some personal reasons you struggle? How does John's letter encourage you?
- 2. What idols are you drawing to in your life? What specifically are you seeking from that idol to satisfy?
- 3. How does the Jesus of Scripture satisfy whatever it is you are seeking from that idol?