

Prayer is the key to
 Title: Confidence ~~Before God~~ *in Prayer*

Text: I John 5:14-21

Tonight we will conclude our study of I John. Again, I hope that this study has pleased you as much as it has pleased me. First John is a wonderful book. So, let's turn to I John chapter 5 and we will begin with Vs 14.....(READ Vs 14-21)

PRAYER

In these concluding verses, John is telling us that CONFIDENCE COMES TO THE BELIEVE FROM GOD IN 4 different areas.....

Someone has correctly said, that confidence is the birth mark of one who is truly born of God. And I agree with that. Confidence is 4 areas that are vital to our assurance.....

(1) The First area is a wonderful area. In Vs 14-17 John is saying that we can have confidence in the area of prayer. ~~Prayer in prayer.~~

Do you believe in prayer? Sure you do.....Every time you are in a jam... What is John teaching us here about prayer?.....THREE THINGS.....

(1) First, concerning our approach to God .

Vs 14.."And this is the confidence.".....The word "confidence" is the word for "boldness," or "freedom of speech." And this is the "boldness" ~~which~~ which we have before Him. Literally, it is "TOWARD HIM." And it is referring to our approach to God.

Turn ^{*over*} over, please, to the book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 4 verse 15.. HOW DOES ONE HAVE ~~POWER~~ IN PRAYER? You will have ^{*Confidence*} power in prayer by understanding your approach to God.

You know, a lot of Christians are afraid to pray because they are not sure how to approach God?...THAT IS RIGHT!.....You know, we are so unworthy.. And we use that as an excuse.....Hay! it is true, we are unworthy...

The only worthiness we have is in Christ Jesus.

Corinthians

~~The only worthiness we have is in Christ.~~ The people don't pray because they think that God isn't interested in little things. But, in understanding the ^{*Confidence*} power of prayer, you must understand how God wants you to approach him. ^u "This is the boldness that we have towards Him..." ^{||}

Now, look at Hebrews chapter 4:15...We read: "For we do not have a high priest **who** cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."....Jesus did not have any sin. But, he knows what we go through.

Vs 16: "Let us therefore draw near with confidence or boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need"

In other words, let's come and pour out our hearts to God. Did you know that God is just waiting for you to spill over?...

SJ 2/1 You say, "I have so much on my heart. I have such a heavy burden. There are so many things that are concerning me." *I am under pressure*

This is the confidence that we have towards Him that we can come with boldness and just pour out our heart. Just spilling everything out to Him.

You say, "You mean God wants to listen to all of my concerns?....YES, he does. And he invites us to open up to Him. In Hebrews 4:16 the verse is in the present tense in Greek, meaning: continuous action....Come as a habit of life. For God never gets tired of our coming.

So,....how do I have ^{*Confidence*} power in prayer?....By learning that in my approach to God that I am to come often, as a habit of life, and just pour myself out to Him. And I am to do that boldly, because I, as a result of faith, have **access** to God. Romans 5:1 says "therefore, Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through or access to, our Lord Jesus Christ. "

You see, the moment I received Christ into my life, I established a prayer line with God. And I am to come boldly to Him. And I am only fooling myself and hindering my own spiritual growth by refusing to pour out my life, daily, as a habit of life, to God. He wants me to come to him,

Jesus ^{Said} ~~said~~ to ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be open. The point of thruth of this verse is not to ask once. It is not one seeking, not one ^{one seeking} knocking. It is used in continous language. Just keep on asking, seeking and knowcking.

You say: "Isn't that begging from God?" NO, It is operating your life by the pricinple of FAITH....Faith to believe what God Said he would do ^{Faith} in your life. "Bring all of your cares to him, for he careth for you." Let us continouly, constantly, come to the ~~throne~~ throne of Grace and pour out our hearts to God.

You know why ^{None of you} we don't have ^{Confidence} power in Prayer; [?] ~~Why do we don't have confidence~~ ^{In the power of prayer?} Because ^{you} we don't pray very often. Some ^{of us} don't even take time to pray at meals. Or, to pray before we go to bed at night, or, as we get up in the morrowing.

But, you know, God is talking about a life of prayer. Pray without ceasing, Paul said in I Thess 5. Pray without ceasing. A habit of life. And God wants us to come boldly before him.

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(b) ^{secondly} Now, I want to say something about our ASKING. Let's come to ^{back} ~~John~~ ^{John}. ^{Confidenc} The Power of Prayer is seen, also, in ~~the~~ the ASKING, and the way we do it. You will notice in Vs 14: "If we ask anything".....

God never separates things as to that which is more important than ~~semthing~~ something else. ~~IF~~ "If we ask anything..according to his will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from him."

Now, what is this talking about? The word used for "ask" means "to ask for speicific things." / You say: Why, do you point that out?"

Because there are some words translate "ask" which do not mean that. Here, it means a sêmples naming of request....

You want to have confidence....in the power of prayer....God said "if we ask anything." Any speicific thing. You name it. It is a request.

(C) BUT, notice the conditions...."According to His will." You say:
"Well, I don't know what God's will is about this." Don't worry about that. Just tell God you will accept His answer according to His will. Not your will, but His will. You see...

Now, I want to give a very simple illustration of this so that it might be as much help as possible.

Let's say that one of my children/ comes to me and says: "Daddy, I would like to have a 12 guage shot gun." "Oh!,,,,"Yes, I realize that I am only ¹⁰ years old, but I want to have a 12 guage shot gun."

I hope He Will

So, I say: "that is fine son, we will see." And then I ~~forget~~ about it. Ask -- one time. Next week he comes back and says: " Dad,I really want that shot gun." "That 12 guage, you know, I ask you about?"

Well, what if this want on for 6 months to a year to a life time? Continually asking me... I would get pretty tired, wouldn't I?

* I would probable say after awhile: "Shirley, should we let him have a shot gun?" "Why, do you want to give him a shot gun?" "He keeps asking for it everyday.".....We laugh....But, did you know that is the heart of the illustration that Jesus used.

Don't you think that God knows what we are like? Sure he does. We come to Him ~~and~~ say, "Lord, I would like you to do this for me." And we never tell him about it ~~again~~ again...We don't keep on asking. He knows what kind of FAITH we have! ~~What Brings My Son Back To Me asking His Faith in His Dad -~~ If we have real faith in the soverign will of God, we will not stop asking... *until we get the answer*

And notice the assurance, ~~that~~, the Assurance is that He hears us.... Isn't it ^{Trickin'} nice to know that people listen to you when you talk to them? Nothing is more anoring than to have someone look all over the room when you are talking to them.

Do you realize what God is saying? I am ~~taking~~ taking a little time on this because here is just a great principle of Assurance for our lives. The whole point -- is -- that God is listening. ~~He loves you to talk with~~

He loves for you to talk with Him. And he doesn't care what the subject is. He says "anything." And the assurance is that he hears us. *That is why we pray accordingly*
THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT HE GIVES TO US WHAT WE ASK. Because, you see, God knows best for us...And like my son, I might say, Hay, look at this gun --- and it turns out to be a squirt gun-----And I give it to him and I say "there." And he is satisfied for the moment.....

Don't you think God knows what we have need of, right now. We often say: "Lord, I need this and I must have it right now." Well, maybe ~~you~~ *you* do, and maybe you do not. But the wonderful assurance in the power of prayer, is that God is listening....HE HEARS US.

And the Bible says in Vs 15: "if we know(have confidence in) that he hears us, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from him."
WHY? Because God will eventually answer that prayer.

He might say NO --NOT NOW...There is something else, first, that I want to teach you. You need a little patience...

Slowly
Softly
 Or, He might give it to you right away. But the point is, that He is listening. Isn't that thrilling...God is always listening to me. At any time. There is power ^{confidence in the} of prayer because God is ~~is~~ always listening.

III) Then, in Vs 18 we have confidence in THE PRACTICE OF SIN. ~~The habit of~~
 The question is often ask "Now, that I am a christian can I continue in sin? God brings us confidence by saying that we cannot. Vs 18: "We know that no one who is born of God sins." And ~~the~~ the word is as a habit of life.
 ① He cannot sin. WHY? *because of habit of life* Because he has a new nature. You are born of God. And the nature which is born of God cannot practice a life of sin. It is impossible to practice ^{Sin} as a habit of life .

2 And what else. "He who was born of God keeps him." Did you know that when you are born of God you have a new nature, that automatical tries to watch itself. It has to keep fighting the Old one. But the new nature always watches itself.

And third, "the evil one does not touch him." You ~~say~~^{ask}; "Doesn't Satan touch a christian's life. Well, don't think of this "touch" as one little "touch." It means to "lay hold on."...Satan has no power to sieze and "lay hold on" a Christian, and dominate him anymore. "For greater is He that is in you than He ~~that~~ is in the world." What tremendous confidence as to the practice of ~~sin~~^{us} as a habit of life.

Some of you are wondering, right now, did the Pastor skip over Vs 16~~in~~ because he didn't want to deal with it. Oh, NO, I am going to deal with it.

But, I jumped to Vs 18 to help us understand the habit of life in sin. Now, Vs 16 is still related ~~to~~ the subject of Prayer. But it effects one who is out SINNING. A BROTHER. Vs 16 says: "If any one sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death." The word "unto" means "toward," by way of direction. It means that the sin that he is experienceing NOW -- and continuing in --has a tendeous to lead to death. SEPARATION FROM GOD.

If you see a brother like that, ~~he~~^{John} says "you shall ask". .. That is the same word as is found in Vs 14. "Ask and God will for him give life."

Life for Whom? "For them that sin not unto death!"

Now, the next statement saiy's that there is a sin unto death. WHAT -- IS -- THE *-- SIN --THAT ** LEADS -- TOWARDS -- DEATH?

I believe, as I have studied this, and I do so quickly ~~wishing~~ I had mor time, I believe ~~that~~ this sin refers to what is in John's mind -- THE GREATEST SIN OF ALL ---THE DENIEL OF JESUS BEING GOD IN HUMAN FLESH.

This is one of the great messages of John's espistle and why we need Assurance. And my friends, that sin of deniel, continued in as a habit of life results in death ¹ Separation, totally, from God.

And if you see a Christian that even gets near it, pray for that brother.
Pray for Him, immediately.

But he may not be sinning like that. He ^{maybe} is just involved in sin. For in Vs 17 we read: "all unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death."

There are many ^{Christians} people who are sinning, yet, they are not denying Christ. Many christians ~~who~~ are going away from God. ^{Jesus} AND WHAT SHOULD THE OTHER CHRISTIANS BE DOING? [We should be praying for that brother or sister. Praying for him....Asking God to stop him...

The majority of you here today are christians. You believe in Jesus. You believe that he is God. But for some of you, sin has come into your life. And you are beginning to go away from Him. In attitude, in reaction, in love, in faith. You are drifting and ^{your} heart is getting cold. WHY? Because you are sinning. Not a sin unto death. You are not denying Jesus. But you are wondering away because all unrighteousness is sin. And you are wondering away from Him. [Christians can pray for Christians like that, But, oh, if you are a christian like ^{that} You can see it in your life. You don't denie Christ but you say that sin has taken hold of you ^{and} ~~take~~ as a habit of life you see yourself getting ^{cold} insensitivity to the Lord. You are growing cold to the Word, You don't pray much anymore, ^{you} don't read the word much any more. OH, my friend, be warned of this fact: that God will bring his judgment upon you.

You say: "Pastor, that doesn't sound like a message of love?" Oh, yes it is. God loves you so much that he will not let you continue in sin....He might cut you off as I Corrn 11 says some are asleep even because they refused to Judge themselves.

Take this opportunity right now to say: "God, you ^{said} ~~say~~ if we confess our sins that you will cleanse us." Claim that promise. By faith say YES, I confess my sin to you. And at that moment God will forgive you and you will be cleansed, and clean, and back where you can enjoy your fellowship with God. I Hope you do That, Today

The Faith Area

~~THE final two areas in Vs 18-19.~~ Vs 19, we have CONFIDENCE ABOUT OUR POSITION. For he says: "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." The point here is: God's control and Satan's control. He says: We are of God and the whole world is in the hands of Satan. So by way of position: Have a little confidence.

We are not under the domination of Satan.....For sin shall not have domine over you for you are not under Law but under grace. You have a new nature that cannot continue as a habit of life in sin. Trust it and believe it. ^{as Roman 6 5-11} Count yourself to be dead to sin but alive to God. Thank God that you have a new nature. That your old man- your old tendence to sin was cruified with Christ, buried, You have a new life and one day we shall see Jesus and be like Him. RIGHT NOW BELIEVE IT BY FAITH.

V

Then the fiveth area is CONFIDENCE AFTER THE PERSON OF GOD. So many people are asking today about the final reality. Is there a God? Is he alive? Who is He?

John leaves no ~~doubt~~ doubt in anyones ~~mind~~ mind as to the ture God. The word "true" in verse 20 is the word that we would traslate as "genuine"... "The real one...".. How do you know who the real God is?

And ~~John~~ John says in Vs 20: "We know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding." What kind of an understanding? "inorder that we might know Him who is true - genuine - real -and we are in Him(if you are a believer) who is ture- genuine - real -in his Son Jeus Christ."

And if there is still doubt about it. Please notice and believe this last phrase of Vs 20: THIS -IS - THE - TRUE - GOD ----- AND ETERNAL LIFE.

Who? Jesus Christ --- This is the genuine God. You want to know who God is? BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST. The word "know" is to known by "personal experience." And isn't it wonderful that when you believe ~~in~~ Christ you receive an understanding. YOU KNOW -- ~~it~~ -- through personal experiece.

And John's final word is to "guard yourselves from idols. That is, all false and substitutionary Gods. All ~~the~~ things that will get you away from the TRUE GOD, AND THE ONE YOU ARE TO KNOW FOREVER - JESUS CHRIST.

For one day, God became man and that was Jesus. And you can know him today through one thing: FAITH ---- FAITH.

~~You~~ Will you believe that ^{Jesus} he is God????? If you will believe that, and ask Him to be your saviour and Lord, at that moment, I guarantee that everything we have said about this book, will be true in your life.

SHALL WE CLOSE IN PRAYER.