# 1 John Lesson 27

**1 John 5:13-15**

“Confidence to Ask”

Introduction: To many in this world, for believers to say, “I know for sure that I will go to Heaven!” or “I have not doubt about whether or not Heaven will be my home!” Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the anchor of our HOPE.

The Bible leaves not question marks. John did not intend at the end of this letter to write about eternal life....The whole book of 1 John is about eternal life and having assurance of it. “That we may know that we know Him; That we may know that we have Eternal Life.” This whole book has led up to this verse!

We believe on Him for Eternal life, but we believe on Him for every situation of life. We need Him to be what we need to be for every purpose...

He is going to talk to us about prayer. Who do you think can pray with more confidence? A person who hopes that they might in the end know Him. Or a person who knows they know Him. These verses are full of motivation to pray. And, to pray with confidence.

I. This is the confidence

A. The Greek work for confidence is translated is three ways.

1. Assurance, boldness and confidence.

2. John is saying that we have the ability we can have all three of these we when we pray..

a. Because we have assurance, boldness and confidence we are free to speak to God

b. We have freedom of expression to God.

c. We may approach Him; We have access to God.

1) He is approachable

2) He invites us to approach Him.

3) He invites us to approach Him and speak freely.

3. Many times our prayer life could be characterized by apprehension or doubt.

a. Tentative, apprehension or doubt would not be words John would use when talking about prayer

b. We do not have room for apprehension or doubt when we understand what John is teaching about confidence.

B. You can pray with confidence and boldness and assurance

1. John heard Jesus speak these same words (John15)

2. Ask and ye shall receive for your joy (John16:24)

3. Seeing that we have great high priest.

a. John is telling us to pray with total confidence that He hears us.

b. John is encouraging us to come boldly unto the throne.

4. Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit supplements the writing of John (Heb 4).

a. Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest

b. He came to this earth and walked as a man

1) He is not insensitive to your temptations

2) He is not insensitive to your feelings

3) He is not insensitive to your afflictions

4) He is not insensitive to the injustices of your life

5. Come Boldly to the throne and you will find mercy and grace to help in the time of need.

a. Boldly is not referring to being cocky or without fear

b. Boldly is not referring to abrasive and cutting.

c. Boldness is has to do with the ability to “speak all” that God said and leave it with Him.

1) Boldness is not being in someone’s face.

2) That Carnality is often mistaken for boldness.

6. Bold praying is the freedom to speak before God.

a. We cannot hide our feelings from God.

b. It does our soul good to hear ourselves speak to Him about what is really going on inside of our heart.

c. We are invited to “say it all” to God.

1) Requests and petitions

2) Confess Wrong

3) Wholesome Desires

II. This is not a “blank check” for our personal desires.

A. If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.

1. God has qualified this statement with “according to His will”

2. God is not obligated to give you anything you ask for.

3. Prayers based upon Scripture are “according to His Will.”

a. “Pray ye the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers.”

b. There are few laborers because too few people praying

B. The Problem is that we do not desire what is His will.

1. We desire more for career, success, wealth, popularity.

2. Until our hearts desire is first and foremost His Will, we are in no position to ask anything of God

a. Except the correction of our hearts affection.

b. We need to stay on our knees before God until His Will is our chief desire.

3. Many are disillusioned that God has already promised to give them things that are NOT His Will.

a. When it does not come to pass, they are disillusioned with God and God’s people.

b. People then have no use for God, The Bible or the church.

4. We have to be reminded to pray according to God’s Will.

a. You cannot know how to pray in the will of God if not interested in separating yourself from the world and to God

b. You must position yourself to have a clue what His will might be.

5. Living with an understanding of God’s will for your life is directly related to your separation from the world and to God.

a. Surrender yourself to be conformed to His image.

b. Using church or God to get your way eliminates the application Scripture.

Rom 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

C. We depend on the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit

1. We can’t possibly know the eternal purpose and plan according to His sovereign plan.

2. But the Spirit of God knows.

a. We must surrender to Holy Spirit's work

b. We can pray for His will to be done.

3. The outcome of our prayer depends on what we are primarily interested in.

a. Either the will of God.

b. Or for us to have our way.

4. Jacob wrestled with God for an answer.

a. God started the wrestling match.

b. It was Jacob that needed to be changed, NOT God.

D. God cares about us and wants us to have all that we need.

1. Prayer is not to talk Him out of what He knows that we need in our life.

2. Prayer is to conform to His will.

3. Prayer is not overcoming God’

a. He is a gracious and giving Father.

b. He desires for you is to want His will.

c. When you are governed by a passion for His will, it is amazing how your wants change.

Conclusion: “Prayer is not getting God to pay attention to our requests, it is getting our requests in line with His perfect and desirable will for us.”