

# 1 John 5: 13-21

Know what you have. Knowledge is Confidence.

This week- The final week of our 1 John Study

Verse 13

Could mean the previous few verses or could mean the whole letter. I think it's the whole letter because assurance of salvation is a theme John talks about throughout the epistle. John uses the singular pronoun "I." He hadn't used that since 2:26 when talking about false teachers (which is also a theme throughout the letter). John does a similar thing when stating the purpose of his gospel

John 20:31 "but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." Therefore I take it to mean the entire letter.

What John's purpose then? "...that you may know you have eternal life." John wants us to be sure of where we stand. John 5:1 "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."

Verses 14-15

We should have confidence when we are petitioning. When we ask, God hears us and does what we've asked! The qualification is that we pray "according to His will." God is not a genie in a bottle. That would be trying to subordinate God's will to ours. John R. W. Stott writes... Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or for bending His will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to His. It is by prayer that we seek God's will and embrace it and align ourselves with it. Every true prayer is a variation of the theme "your will be done."

Unanswered prayer can be discouraging. On the other hand, answered prayer brings encouragement and confidence. Unconfessed sin is an obstacle to answered prayer. We can't have a heart that condemns us (1 John 3:21-22) "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

We must be abiding in Christ (John 15:7) "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." Pray according to God's will (Matthew 6:10 "Thy will be done.") Entrust yourself to God's loving authority. Humbly subject yourself to God as your leader. Choosing to trust that if God is good, His will is good. Aligning your heart & will to follow what He says. When these things happen, John says 'we have' what we have asked. Here and now. God doesn't say, leave a message and I'll get back to you. Immediate granting of requests but they are played out in the future. If I ask God for an opportunity to share, the request is granted. But it probably happens in the future and not right then. It is revealed later. God, I need wisdom in this situation (with someone.) When you come in contact with them, God's granting is revealed. John gives us an example to this in v. 16-17

Verses 16-17

Most people jump to the 'sin leading to death' part – the limitation. John doesn't strictly forbid praying for them, but he seems to think it won't do anything. Probably was talking about blasphemy of Holy Spirit or rejection of the Gospel. Don't miss John's point. He's not focused on who not to pray for, but whom to pray for. Pray for brothers and sisters. Notice in verse 16 John says 'should pray.' Future tense verb in Greek (aitesei) literally, 'he will pray.' This was expressing not the writer's command but an inevitable reaction by the believer to pray for his brother or sister.

As a Christ follower, one should recognize it as their duty to care for one another. This is a form of love. John addressed it in 1 John 4:11: "Dear friends, since God loved us, we also ought to love one another." God grants the sinning brother/sister life! Is there sin in a congregation? Pray! God answers such prayer.

Prayer is powerful. We have a direct connection to our heavenly Father. Matthew Barnett tweeted “One moment in prayer can ignite an idea that years of work and toil could never create.”

“You do not have because you do not ask.” – James 4:2 Or sometimes we ask the wrong things. – Phil 4:19 – “And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Be honest with God in prayer. If you aren’t ‘getting it’ ask Him for wisdom to understand and a hunger for His Word. If you don’t desire His will, ask Him to align your will with His. If you aren’t finding joy in God’s will, tell Him! He knows everything anyway! He wants us to come to Him in times of need.

Verses 18-20

We know, we know, we know. This is what we should know and do know from John’s entire letter. These are bold, affirmative truths. They are indisputable, just as the grass is green.

Affirmation #1 - the Comforting Truth

We are now in Christ; he holds us and keeps us safe. We can’t habitually sin. The devil can’t touch us. At best he can throw rocks. John 10:28 – “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” This speaks of God’s sovereignty. We may only suffer that which is beneficial to us. God might allow the enemy to ‘throw rocks’ but never overtake us.

Affirmation #2 – The Darth Vader Truth

We are children of God. God is our Father. You are either “of God” or “under the control of the evil one,” there is no middle ground. It doesn’t say ‘of Satan’ like ‘of God.’ More like in his grasp. We can think of nonbelievers as John Stott puts it “quietly lying, perhaps even unconsciously asleep, in the embrace of Satan.”

Affirmation #3 – the Trill Affirmation

Jesus has allowed us to know God. We have true understanding and revelation. Understanding in the Greek is *dianoia* meaning ‘the power or capacity of knowing.’ We know “so that we may know Him who is true.” So we know for a fact that the true Son of God, Jesus Christ, has come to give us understanding to come and perceive and know in experience God the Father who is the ultimate reality. Jesus is TRILL!!! We know God only because of Jesus

Verse 21

The Surprise Ending – but not really. Don’t abandon real for fake.

Any ‘God-substitute’ is an idol. This may be our significant other. Do you constantly worry about them or obsess over their problems?

Busyness, even if they are all good things, making sure we are always doing something can get in the way of us and God.

Knowledge-It can be an idol if it’s not what we desire so we can know God more. Sometimes we want knowledge so we can show others how much we know. Sometimes we want knowledge so we can try and win God’s affection.

The Overarching Message – Knowledge is Confidence

John wants us to know what we have so we can be confident. He says know 7 times in 9 verses.

When I study Differential Equations...

False teachers said this...

Cerinthianism-Jesus was just a man upon which the “Christ” ascended. It came upon His baptism and left upon His crucifixion. Thus, the Christ never really suffered and died for our sins.

Gnosticism – comes from Gnosis, Greek word for knowledge. Salvation comes from knowledge of transcendence arrived at by way of interior, intuitive means. Believed ‘Messengers of Light’ came to assist humans in finding Gnosis. They disregard Jesus death because they think ignorance is the real problem which then results in sin. They say Jesus’ life and teaching and His miracles were His real work of salvation, not His death on the cross.

BOTH disregard the death and resurrection!

Truth is Jesus was fully God, fully man. He really did die and defeated the grave. In doing this, He provided the only suitable and eternal sacrifice for humanity's sin. Jesus rebuilt the bridge that connects us and God, the ultimate truth and reality that supplies all knowledge. As John says in verse 20: Jesus gives us an understanding that we have...

eternal life (verse 13)

a direct connection with God (verse 14-17)

we are kept safe (verse 18)

we are children of God (verse 19)

the ability to know God intimately (verse 20)

No additional knowledge is needed because God the Father supplies all knowledge and there is no way to Him but through Jesus Christ! (John 14:6)

False teachers said you needed more knowledge. False, you already have access to all true knowledge of God in Christ. Every believer does. John says know this so you are confident. - Move from shaky doubt and confusion to bold, unshakable surety and confidence. This is not an arrogant knowledge like the false teachers (which was really ignorance), so that we have a firm foundation to stand on when someone teaches falsely. Then we can start experiencing God. And when a false teacher rolls into that club, we can go Nacho Libre on them! Joo Crazy! Get that corn outta my face false teacher!

Knowledge is confidence. Know what you have.