

## Truth You Can Count On (I John 5:13-21)

### Introduction:

1. As John prepares to close out his letter; his focus appears to be on the one **central truth** that he has claimed throughout his entire Epistle:
  - His letter began with this statement; “What was **from the beginning**, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the **Word of Life** – and the **life was manifested**, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the **eternal life** which was with the Father and was manifested to us – what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you to may have fellowship with us; and indeed **our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ**. These things we write so that our joy may be full” (I John 1:1-4)
  - He concludes the last part of his letter with these words; “These things I have written to **you who believe in the name of the Son of God**, so that **you may know that you have eternal life**” (I John 5:13)
  - That \_\_\_\_\_ **truth** is; “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have **eternal life**” (John 3:16)
2. The assurance of “\_\_\_\_\_” rests in the True Testimony of God Himself; “And the testimony is this, that God has given us **eternal life**, and **this life is in His Son**. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son does not have the life” (I John 5:11-12)
3. This lesson will focus on John’s concluding remarks as he brings his first letter to a powerful close, showing the believer that there are certain assurances we can count on!

### **The Assurance of Eternal Life: (I John 5:13)**

1. Some commentators conclude that all of John's writings center around \_\_\_\_\_ important themes:
  - The **Gospel of John** was written so that people would \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus and be \_\_\_\_\_; "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; **but these have been written so that you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life** in His name" (John 20:30-31)
  - The **Epistles of John** were written so that those who believe would \_\_\_\_\_ they are \_\_\_\_\_; "These things I have written to **you who believe in the name of the Son of God**, so that **you may know that you have eternal life**" (I John 5:13)
2. Since assurance of salvation can only be claimed by those who "believe in the name of the Son of God"; what promise does God provide to the believer that seals that pledge/promise of eternal life? (Ephesians 1:13-14)
  - "This is His commandment, **that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ**, and love one another just as He commanded us. **The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him** and He in Him. **We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us**" (I John 3:23-24)
  - "I will ask the Father and He will give you another, Helper, that He may be with you forever, that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, **but you know Him because He abides with you** and will be in you" (John 14:17)
3. John establishes that there is both a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ that is found in Christ; "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. This is the true God and eternal life" (I John 5:20)..... "And I give **eternal life** to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28)

### **The Assurance of Answered Prayer:** (I John 5:14-17)

1. Here is the promise; “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (I John 5:14)

- This \_\_\_\_\_ is given to those who; “**believe in the name of the Son of God**”
- The \_\_\_\_\_ that a believer has in praying to God and knowing/trusting that He hears us is the direct result of that \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus who is the Son of God.

2. If you approach this text with the understanding that John is speaking to believers then this passage makes complete sense and its intending meaning is clear:

- In an earlier passage John wrote; “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight” (I John 3:21-22)
  - 1) It is natural for the believer to be \_\_\_\_\_ to God because the Holy Spirit indwells them, and since that is true; our hearts are \_\_\_\_\_ with God’s will or purposes.
  - 2) This is why we can pray with confidence and know that God hears our prayers, because as we actively obey His commands, we are doing what pleases Him.
- “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that 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 that we asked of Him” (I John 5:14-15)
  - 1) We should avoid the desire to pray \_\_\_\_\_ as if God were some kind of holy vending machine, but instead we should \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts and will with God’s purposes and plans. (James 4:3)
  - 2) As we live out our lives in \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord, He places those things in our hearts that glorify Him and leads us to be in line with His will and it is those desires that control our prayers and bring us \_\_\_\_\_. (**Psalms 37:3-5**, John 16:23-24)

- I heard it said that the Lord answers a believers prayer in one of three ways:

- 1) **Yes** - *What took you so long to ask?*
- 2) **Yes** - *Here is more than you asked for.*
- 3) **No** - *I love you too much*

3. The remaining portion of this text has created a challenge for some; "If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death" (I John 5:16-17)

- There seems to be two basic possibilities as to what John is referring to in regard to sin and death:

- 1) The sin that John is speaking of **could be** that of an unbeliever in which their **final rejection of Christ** (considered blasphemy against the Holy Spirit who is the One who reveals Christ to the world) **leads to their eternal death.** (Matt. 12:31-32)
- 2) The other possibility is that John is speaking about a believer whose sin is so serious that God takes their life, such as was the case with Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5:1-11)

- I think the key here is to recognize a couple of really important principles that have already been established:

- 1) The life of a believer is characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ (righteousness) and not \_\_\_\_\_ (sin) and John has already established what a genuine Christ follower looks like. (I John 1:5-7)
- 2) A Christ follower can and will sin, and when they do, there is a means by which our fellowship is restored through asking forgiveness. (I John 1:8-10)

- There just may be times when a Christ follower is better suited for heaven than to remain here on earth.

## **The Assurance of Victory over Sin** (I John 5:18)

1. **"We know that no one born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him"** (I John 5:18)
  - John has already established that a Christ follower is not "sinless" (I John 1:8-10)
    - 1) Although sin is present in our lives (I John 1:8), the follower of Christ is free from pursuing it and is no longer in bondage to it. (Romans 8:1-7)
    - 2) The apostle Peter wrote that we (those who follow Christ) must understand that there is a consistent pattern of behavior for the believer; which is the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_, and living \_\_\_\_\_. (I Peter 1:14-16)
    - 3) The apostle Paul taught that as we continue to walk in the light, the deeds of darkness are exposed and the process of \_\_\_\_\_ causes us to flee the darkness. (Ephesians 5:1-21)
    - 4) When a believer who claims to be in fellowship with God and yet actively pursues darkness (sin), he/she are not living/walking in truth and in need of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. (I John 1:6, 9)
  - So it is probably best to understand this passage (I John 5:18) to mean that a Christ follower (one who has been 'born again' or transformed by the new birth) \_\_\_\_\_ **continue living in an unbroken pattern of sin.**
  - In other words; a believer (one born of God) **does not continue to continue to sin** without recognizes the need to change that behavior pattern and then actually do something to change it.
  - The one "born on God" is completely \_\_\_\_\_ from pursuing sin (something that was impossible prior to being born again – John 3:1-21) and the result of that new birth is a life that actively pursues righteousness. (Romans 6:17-22)
  - In knowing this, it makes complete sense and is consistent with what John and the other apostles taught which is; **a Christ follower \_\_\_\_\_ continually practice sin.**

2. “We know that no one born of God sins; **but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him**” (I John 5:18)

- The world and those in the world are enslaved to sin and controlled by the evil one:
  - 1) Ever since the time when Satan tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, he has been able (as far as God would allow) to control and manipulate this world by and through his grip/hold over mankind through the power of sin which has been evidenced ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God.
  - 2) The power of Satan over this world is immense (John 8:42-44, II Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2, I John 5:19); and he is bent on attempting to overthrow the Lord and causing mankind to follow him toward destruction. (Revelation 20:7-15)
- A Christ follower however; is no longer under the control of the evil one (Satan) for John writes; **‘but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him’**
  - 1) The believer has been rescued and placed under the care and control of Jesus Christ; “For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred is to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin” (Colossians 1:13-14)
  - 2) Jesus Christ is the “**anchor of the soul**” and provides to those who follow Him, the assurance and hope that He will keep and protect them; “My sheep hear My voice and they follow Me and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:27-28)
- Those who are “born of God” are given a new pursuit which is a pursuit of right things (righteousness) and this is provided by and through the indwelling Holy Spirit and allows us to fight off the deceitful schemes of the evil one. (Ephesians 6:10-17)
- Paul sums up our assurance that God will protect and preserve His own; “**For I am convinced** that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39)

## The Assurance that we belong to God (I John 5:19)

### 1. "We know that we are of God"

- Jesus taught us that we (as His followers) are at odds with the world; "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it has hated you. **If you were of the world, the world would love its own**; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you" (John 15:18-19)
- We who are called **the children of God** (John 1:12); exist as **aliens** and **strangers** (I Peter 2:11, Hebrews 11:13), in this world because our Father is God and our identity resides with Him. (Philippians 3:20)

### 2. "And that **the whole world lies in the power of the evil one**"

- The world (because it is controlled by the devil) is \_\_\_\_\_ toward God and as such is bent on rejecting anything that is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 2:2, 6:12)
- The goal for the Christ follower is to remain in the world without allowing the world to \_\_\_\_\_ them; "**Do not love the world** nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father**, but is from the world" (I John 2:15-16)

### 3. John makes it quite simple:

- Either we belong to the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_
- Or we belong to the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. There is no middle ground; "He who is not with Me is against Me; and who does not gather with Me, scatters" (Luke 11:23)

- A Christ follower is no longer a part of the satanically controlled world system and is \_\_\_\_\_ from its power and control. (I John 5:19, 2:15-17, 3:7-8)
- To be a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world is to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of God! (James 4:4)

## **The Assurance that Jesus Christ is the True God (I John 5:20-21)**

1. John closes out his first letter with two very important statements and **the first is**; “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. **This is the true God and eternal life**” (I John 5:20)
  - This is very similar to how he opened the letter; “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning **the Word of Life** – and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the **eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us**” (I John 1:1-2)
  - Jesus is not some abstract phenomenon and John’s use of the present tense; **the Son of God has come**, is intentional to show He is God who became flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1:14)
  - Everything that Jesus taught pointed to this one central truth; “I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6)
  - John declares that; “**This is the true God and eternal life**”, because it is absolutely true; and to reject Jesus as God is to not know God. “And **there is salvation in no one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)
2. The **second and final words of encourage are**; “Little children, guard yourselves from idols” (I John 5:21)
  - It is because Jesus is the true God and eternal life that a follower of Christ should guard themselves from following or believing anyone or any contrary belief system that teaches otherwise.
  - It would probably be safe to conclude that John is encouraging his readers to not place anything above or equal to God. (See II Corinthians 10:5)
3. Stay tuned for more words on this subject from John in his second Epistle (II John)