



**“Assurance through Fellowship Pt. 1 –  
Assurance Breeds a Confident Prayer Life”  
Wk.14 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:13-17  
By Pastor Jody May**

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**1 John 5:13-17 ESV**

**That You May Know**

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

**REVIEW:**

**LIGHT & LOVE**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Light** – Truth that stems from Christ and is sustained in Fellowship with each other.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Love** - Treasuring God and how we value each other.

**Introduction:**

We said for three weeks (**now four**) we will be talking about the reason that John wrote this letter, the clue comes in his summary:

**That You May Know**

<sup>13</sup> 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**.

It's all about Assurance/knowing that you have eternal life/been SAVED. Assurance means that when hard times come, they don't overwhelm you. Assurance means when life temps you, you can withstand for you believe you already have it all.



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Assurance means that when the threat of death knocks fear is kept in check. And Assurance for the believer will help you stand on the final day of judgment because your advocate has been and forever will be Jesus the Christ. And that type of person in this world is an asset to the Kingdom and a nightmare for the enemy.

So far here is what we have learned about assurance:

- 1- Assurance through Obedience 5:1-5
- 2- Assurance through Christ 5:6-12
- 3- Assurance through Fellowship – 5:13-21
  - a. Assurance with a confident prayer life. 5:13-21

**What we are learning today is not just another reason for assurance, but it is a description of what the Assured person is privy to:**

**Assurance of Salvation comes with a Confident Prayer Life.**

This is one of those places in scripture where you need to highlight, memorize it, at least ear mark it, because it contains such an incredible promise. That for the person that has assurance of their Salvation, that the God of the universe not only hears you but answers you. It is that you move into your prayer life already confident that your heavenly Father will act. There are three different ways we will be talking about today how Assurance effects our prayer life.

**1. Assurance of Salvation means we can be bold with God. (vs. 13-14a).**

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>And this is the **confidence** that we have **toward** him

παρρησία (*parrēsia*) – **confidence boldness** / πρὸς (*pros*): prep **towards** – Christians that have assurance move towards God not away. While they have the fear of God in them, it is not a distancing fear but a respect that makes them draw near.



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The Christian life is **built on the promise** that we were at one time far from God, that we **should fear** Him, **but now** as a follower of God the relational dynamic has changed.

**Ephesians 2:13-14 ESV**

**<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility**

The assured Christian is positive that the **restrained relationship** between God and man has been **resolved**. We didn't have to walk into God's presence waiting to be judged, Jesus had already gone through that, and our sin required His blood and it was freely given. That atoned for us, it **bought us an everlasting peace**, it broke down a wall of hostility and wrath. The assured Christian doesn't have a boundary any longer, they are open to approach the throne.

Growing up, as a teenager in the 80s cash was still King and in order to drive, I had to go to the head magistrate in the family, my father, if I needed some. It was not always a pleasant thing to do. Sometimes I wasn't the most of model sons, I was late getting home, I didn't get the yard cut on Saturday, I yelled at mom, and still my relationship with him still had to continue for you see we are family. It was his job to provide and my job to ask.

So usually, the middle of every week I would have to approach his throne, the brown lazy boy in the Florida room. The chair that always had the newspaper in the pocket, a cigarette burn on the arm, and a can of peanuts by his side. There were times that I hated coming before him, times where he was mad at the world, times where I would have to realize my life was in his hands. But no matter what happened during that week I always approached, and I asked for what I needed and guess what, he always answered. 90% of the time it was yes with no conditions, 10% with conditions to be met but it was almost always a yes, because my father's will was to get me where I needed to go in life and by hell or high water he would get me there.

And see family, for us our Father, unlike my earthly Father, never has a mean word for us. Is there discipline or conditions that need to be met, corrections



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in behavior? Absolutely, but the Bible tells me the hostility has been torn down our big brother paid for that. I can move **towards Him** with confidence knowing that I am safe. Not only that dear one, but the rest of the world doesn't get that. Only His children know that type of relationship.

Don't go home today and feel like why should I pray, He's mad at me? That's a lie, because the blood of Christ tells you and me all wrath is absorbed. Go freely and confidently to Him today, He is ready to receive you with open arms.

If that's where you are at this morning, then hear the blessing in that encounter that John now describes.

**2. Assurance of Salvation means we can be assured God hears. (vs. 9-10).**

**<sup>14</sup>And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup>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.**

The confidence of the Assured Christian is of the strength, that they believe **the things they ask of God are what God wants!?** Don't miss that, part of the benefit of being an assured Christian is that you are actually understanding the desires of God's heart and you are confidently asking Him to fulfill that.

Jesus actually green lights this practice since He is the one mediating now, reigning in the place of the Father, as John pointed out in His gospel.

**John 14:13 ESV**

**Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

It tells you of the relationship between the Father and Son; **they both want the same things.** That also tells you that you **CAN KNOW what God wants** by reading the Bible for in it has revealed the desires and teachings of Jesus. We pray for what Jesus wants because it is what Father wants and the Father



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wants to glorify Jesus so our lives should be wrapped around the things that lift Him up **not what lifts us up**. Jesus’ own earthly brother knew that much as he explained it to the church in his care in Jerusalem.

**James 4:3 ESV**

**<sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.**

Look when I asked my dad for specific things, he was always wise enough to understand it was a ‘yes’ if it was a benefit for the family and it was a ‘no’ if it was one of my earthly passions. That is a skill that many in our nation have forgotten. Many parents believe a ‘yes’ is the right answer when it makes the child happy, or it goes along with what popular culture would do.

Look, I was 17 and I got this crazy idea, that I could save the family money, by giving back to my mom her car that I was driving all over the place by purchasing a used car. Just so happen that our local gas station, was selling a 1972 SS Camaro with a rebuilt 327 chevy big block. I thought it was a great idea, and I even got my dad to go look at the car with me. I didn’t realize the deal was dead when the mechanic opened the trunk to show us the NOS tanks. So, as you can expect the answer was ‘**NO**’ because he knew this car would not bring the family glory but would either bring traffic fines or a funeral!

That’s the same way it works with us, we have not, not because we won’t necessarily ask, but we ask having no concept of what **God’s intentions are, to bring Jesus glory!** There is a Psalm that points to a little secret to keep in mind when as the good, assured people I know you are, approach God:

**Psalms 37:4&5 ESV**

- <sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.**

The hint is, **where is one’s heart at** when they approach God? Is your heart set on the things of God? Are we delighted in what delights God? Are our ways committed to God’s ways? The secret is, are we actively aligning our will



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with God’s before we start running down our shopping list with Him? One of the best ways to practice this aligning of our will with His, is after you read God’s Word. Reading God’s Word, and it doesn’t matter day or night, morning or afternoon, but before any prolonged prayer ask yourself, is your heart filled with the revelation of who God is in this world? That is what prepares your heart to come into the presence of the Father.

Maybe if I would have spent more time hanging with my dad he would have said yes to the car? **NO!** He couldn’t be bought, and neither can God. Don’t try that either. Don’t be a busy body trying to buy God’s favor with good deeds that’s missing the point entirely.

**Assurance is knowing God hears and God answers if it is in accordance with His will, but it may not always be the answer you want.** The assured Christian understands that, there’s peace in that, and that’s good when we get to our last point here.

**3. Assurance of Salvation means we can rest in God’s answers. (vs. 11-12).**

**<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.**

John is simply telling this church, that we should pray for those, yes even those that have left the church, that God would save them (v.16). That should always be the heart of the assured Christian. Again, this reflects what you understand from the Bible to be true, that God desires Mercy, as you read yesterday:

**2 Peter 3:9 ESV**

**The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.**



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Again, this is a letter written to the church. Peter is describing the heart of Christ, which is the heart of the Father, that His people should repent and turn towards Him. John is describing one of the most **important works** of the church what she is called to do, that is to pray for the **intercession of the fallen believer**. There are sins, that do not lead to death, there are **patterns of life that look like apostasy** but there may be more to that person’s story you do not know.

Family, it may be rough sometimes, to continually pray for those that seem closed off to the offer of Grace from God but again we have no concept of what amount of faith saves a man, and what that looks like for each individual.

What I can tell you that for both my father and my brother, each one was brought up in the church but stopped attending. Each one suffered from past trauma from their father figure scarring their image of a loving Father God. Each one had people in their family that imaged God to them and never stopped praying for them, never. Each of them died the same way by throat cancer, and suffered through chemo and radiation therapy the same way. And each one when faced with the end cried out to Jesus, to remember them and confessed faith in Him.

Now, as an assured Christian, I had hoped to see the evidenced of eternal life before they died but I didn’t get a chance to see that. But I am assured of this, that a man is saved by faith alone through grace alone and not by his works so no one can boast ([Eph. 2:8-9](#)). Secondly, I am assured that no matter the state they left this world in, they stood before the most just, good, merciful, fair, and gracious judge I know and by his hand they were dealt with rightly!

I do need to mention that there seems to be a sin here that John says does lead to death. That seems to point to the fact that the Gnostics had not only declared a false gospel, but that it was on purpose, that it was an affront to God’s Gospel, and that John is commenting that this is the path that closes off one from grace. That is the sin that condemns; Anathema<sup>1</sup>:

**Galatians 1:8-9 ESV**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/definition-anathema.html>



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**<sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. (go and read 2 Peter 2 again from yesterday)**

It seems that most the time in the scripture these people were people who once professed faith, a belief in the Gospel, but had chosen to leave it and drag others with them. This actually might be a place to pray an imprecatory psalm over them first, and who knows some around them might come to repentance.<sup>2</sup>

What we must be confident in family is that we must pray, we approach God with confidence, we must seek to pray His will, we must believe He will answer, and we should know it may not always be to our understanding or preference, but we can rest assured in the outcome.

**Closing and Challenge:**

I want to point out to us one more las thing today. In verses 14 there is again a word that John likes to pinpoint to point out and use. It’s not a big word but it is an important word.

**<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup> 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.**

I want to point out that personal assurance of Salvation comes from and produces a confident **COPORATE** prayer life. This is a picture of the church praying corporately for the requests and needs of the body. It is the picture of the church coming together in the strength of a corporate assurance of persevering faith, believing God hears and answers prayer. John knows that God wants to reveal Himself to the church because that is exactly how faith is strengthened and grown.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/imprecatory-psalms.html>



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Family, I have two challenges in closing.

First, I challenge all our CGs from this point forward, to always pray as a group for each other and for the corporate needs of the body.

Secondly, I want to ask you to pray about starting a prayer gathering in the New Year, here at the building once a week. That it would mirror what we do in our homes where we come together to fellowship, eat, and pray for the needs of one another. Where we could track the results of God’s answered prayers, where we could receive strength in times of need from each other, in the form of intercessory prayers when your personal faith is dwindling.

Then I want you to live in the conviction of what you have learned today:

**Assurance of Salvation comes with a Confident Prayer Life.**

May God grant us what we pray for in the name of Jesus, our savior...

**Prayer**

**Communion**

**Benediction**

Go in the name of the Father, that is waiting to hear and answer our prayers, may we approach Him this week in confidence.

Go in the name of the Son, that has provided the way to approach God with confidence by paving our way with His sacrifice.

Go in the name and power of the HS, that helps us to pray when it’s hard and who goes forward at Jesus’ request to save those we intercede for.