

## **“Fruits of Assurance” (1 John 5:13-21)**

**A** - <sup>13</sup>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.

**B** - <sup>14</sup>This is the confidence which we have before 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 which we have asked from Him.

**C** - <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not *leading* to death.

**C'** - <sup>18</sup>We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. <sup>19</sup>We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

**B'** - <sup>20</sup>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.

**A'** - <sup>21</sup>Little children, (you) guard yourselves from idols.

Analysis of the Text: The text begins with John's purpose to nurture assurance of salvation. Having assurance of salvation is something you know (v. 13). Further confidence follows (v. 14). We have confidence in prayer (v. 15). We have spiritual discernment (v. 16-17, 20). We enjoy the preservation of Christ (v. 18-29). We void idols (v. 21). These further things we know, are the fruits of having assurance of salvation.

The sin unto death (v. 16-17): My interpretation is that the sin unto death is the unpardonable sin. Matthew 12 presents Jesus as the One upon whom the Spirit rests. He casts out demons by the power of the Spirit. The Jews accuse Him of casting out demons by the power of Satan. They blaspheme the Spirit. Remember, Israel is the visible church of the time. Within the bosom of the visible church, the Jews call the Holy Spirit the spirit of Beelzebul. Hebrews 6 speaks of people who taste of the power of the age to come and partake of the Holy Spirit. They fall away. That is, they walk away from the visible church. They not only walk away from the visible church, but at the same time, call the work of the Spirit within the church the work of the devil. This is a specific, visible sin (1 John 5:16). Be discerning. John encourages you to distinguish between the unpardonable sin and all other sins. Pray for the forgiveness of these other sins.

Main Point of the Text:

1. What is the Text About? Answer: The fruits of assurance of salvation and eternal life plus the avoidance of idols.
2. What are the fruits of assurance of salvation? Answer: Having boldness in prayer, seeking forgiveness for others, receiving spiritual discernment, and recognizing the preservation of Christ.
3. Main Point of the Text: Combine the Answers to 1 and 2.

The fruits of assurance of salvation and eternal life plus the avoidance of idols are having boldness in prayer, seeking forgiveness for others, receiving spiritual discernment, and recognizing the preservation of Christ.

Main Lesson of the Text:

IF you have assurance of salvation and eternal life and you also avoid idols, THEN you have boldness in prayer, seek forgiveness for others, have spiritual discernment, and recognize the preservation of Christ.

Food for Thought: What about a person who abandons the faith and walks away from the church, but not in the specific way described above? Can such a person be forgiven and restored? Should you pray for such a person? John ends his study and teaching on a note of confidence. Does John's confidence reflect your confidence? Has John succeeded in his purpose to nurture your assurance of salvation?