

Message #22

I John 5:13-17

I John is a book in the Bible written so that you might know you know God. John wrote the Gospel of John so that we might know who to believe and what to believe (John 20:31) and John wrote I John so that we might know that we have believed.

GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE KNOWING THEY HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM; AND HE HAS GIVEN CERTAIN THINGS TO US SO WE MAY KNOW THIS.

CERTAINTY #1 – The certainty of the written Word. **5:13**

There is debate among scholars concerning the antecedent of “these things.” Some have said it refers to 5:1-12. Some have said it refers to 5:11-12. Some have said it refers to the entire book of I John and others see an application to the entire written Word of God.

I tend to think that the primary application is to I John for the following reasons:

- 1) There is a parallel in John’s writing between John 20:31 and **I John 5:13** and in John’s Gospel he is referring to the whole book he just wrote.
- 2) The context of the whole book of I John is so that we may know we are right with God– I John 1:3-4.
- 3) The verb tense in 1:4 is present, meaning there was much to yet write and the verb tense in **5:13** is aorist, indicating John is looking back on the whole point of what has been written.

I John was written so that you would know that you have believed on Jesus Christ and you would know that you have eternal life.

- 1) You will acknowledge that God is holy and we are sinful and the only One who can put us into a relationship with God is Jesus Christ, through His shed blood (1:5-7).
- 2) You will have a passion to continually obey God (2:3). We will not always succeed, but this will be the primary passion we have (1:8-10).
- 3) You will be developing more and more of a love for your brothers and sisters in Christ (2:10).
- 4) You will be developing less and less of a love for the world (2:15-17).
- 5) You will be developing more and more of a love for God (5:2).
- 6) You will be developing more and more of a victorious faith (5:4).
- 7) You will be developing more and more of an appetite for the written Word of God (**5:13**).

CERTAINTY #2 – The certainty of answered prayer. **5:14-17**

The conjunction “and” which begins **verse 14** immediately connects us to **verse 13**. Believers not only can have the certainty and confidence of eternal life, but they can have that same certainty and confidence about their prayer life.

Fact #1 - If we ask anything of God, according to His will, He hears us. **5:14**

Two possibilities when we pray: 1) We do know the will of God; 2) We don't know the will of God.

Fact #2 - If we know God hears us we know God also will answer us. **5:15**

Notice carefully what is said here and what is not said here—if we are praying according to God's will, He hears us and if we know He hears us, then we know He will answer our request. It is not said He will answer our request our way, but what is promised here is that He will answer the request according to His way and His will.

So if we ask anything or pray about anything according to what God's will is, then we can be absolutely certain He hears us and will answer us according to what His will is.

Our problem is not asking God for things. Our problem is twofold: 1) Asking God for things according to His will; 2) Seeing how God answers according to His will.

Fact #3 - It is God's will that we pray for a brother we see in sin. **5:16-17**

Every believer has a sin problem, in that at times we will blow it. That is precisely what John said in 1:8-10. When we do sin, we need immediate confession of the sin. This maintains our relationship with God. Now we know from I John 3:9 that no person who is born of God can continually land habitually practice a life of sin (3:9-10).

Somewhere in between practicing a life of righteousness and practicing a life of sin are a group of rebellious believers who seem to continually pursue a life that is not after God. What about these brothers or sisters we know who are still alive who are not really following God? God wants us to pray for them.

When one trusts Christ as Savior, there will be one of three reasons why he will eventually die:

- 1) He has fulfilled his life's purpose for God and has finished his course.
Paul—II Tim. 4:6-7; Peter—II Pet. 1:14
- 2) He dies seemingly prematurely for the glory of God. John 21:18-19
- 3) He dies as a direct judgment of God prematurely because he refuses to deal with sin. Ananias and Sapphira lied to God about their offering and they died (Acts 5:1-11). Some believers in Corinth were acting selfishly at the Lord's supper and they died (I Cor. 11:30).

If a believer does not judge himself and his sin, God will. God will chasten His rebellious children—first with a warning and then with removal. There is a sin unto death. The sin is not named. But, you can know this—as a believer you can commit a sin that can cause God to remove you. Now what is our responsibility when we see an erring brother? Pray that brother will see God's will for his life before God yanks him out of this world.