

1 John 5:13-17

Assurance and Prayer

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. And this is the confidence that we have toward 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 have asked of him.

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. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

1 John 5:13-17

1. Purpose Statement: Assurance of Eternal Life (v.13)

- If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, as taught in the New Testament, then you should be assured that you have eternal life
- The purpose of this assurance is to help us when we confront difficulties, to provide comfort when life is unsettling, and to strengthen our faith when we confront doubt
- The written testimony of Scripture is meant to comfort and assure us by pointing us back to Jesus

1. Purpose Statement: Assurance of Eternal Life (v.13)

2. Confidence in Prayer (vv.14-15)

- The reason for our confidence in prayer is because God hears us.

Psalm 66:18

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Proverbs 15:29

The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

1 Peter 3:12

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

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2. Confidence in Prayer (vv.14-15)

- The reason for our confidence in prayer is because God hears us.
- "God's will" means his revealed will, that is, the things he has told us in Scripture.

1 Thessalonians 4:2–3

For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification...

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

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3. One Specific Request: Life for a Believer Who Is Sinning (vv.16-17)

- Our prayers reflect our priorities, and we should be concerned about fellow Christians and their spiritual well-being.
- “Sin leading to death” probably means the sin of the false teachers that John has been warning about throughout the book.