

Having Confidence in Prayer 1 John 5:13-15

- I. Prayer is an outgrowth of our eternal relationship with God.
 - a. The fact of our salvation rests on the effort, and our faith in the efforts, of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. John writes to the church about the necessity of faith in Jesus. Those who do not believe in Jesus are excluded from covenantal relationship with God. But those who have surrendered to the Son are considered the children of God and are treated like the Son of God.
 - b. Treatment like the Son of God allows the believer to enjoy life in eternity, never ending life. This life is in reference to the unending life promised through the unending kingdom of God. The coming of Jesus provided Israel with the guarantee that God would raise all who believed in him with life in his presence forever. That is, life as body and soul in the presence of God. Only belief in God through the Son of God provides covenantal access to this promise.
 - c. The restoration of the body in the eschaton is presupposed in our access to eternity in the present. Belief in the Son of God and the coming of heaven to earth provides the believer with access to heaven in present. Even when we are unaware of it, we find our nourishment and strength through the powers of the Son of God, which are connected to us from his life-giving throne in the heavenlies. This is why Paul can declare we are currently seated with him in heavenly places. We only need remind ourselves of our current heavenly existence and God's desire for us to stay in constant contact with him. This constant contact is our prayer life.
- II. Since we have the Son of God in our lives, who gives us life constantly, we must also come to God with "confidence" as we abide in the will of God.
 - a. We should know what God wants from us if we are in touch with him. We cannot always know the mind of God. But, generally, we should be aware of God's will. We should know about God's likes and dislikes. Otherwise, we end up like Nadab and Abihu who enter the holy place and offer before the Lord strange fire, performing the work of God against the will of God. We should always strive to stay in touch with the heart and thoughts of God.
 - b. When we line up with the desires of God, his will, his word, we can be sure that our prayer has been heard. God does not have to listen to us. God can do whatever God wants to do. God is not capricious but God has his own purposes. It is our job to find out what God is doing and get on his page. We know he has heard us when we are listening to him and asking him for what he desires.
 - c. When we follow his will and plans, he will give us what we have asked him for. Since these were his plans and desires all along, they fit within his overall goals for us and the world. As such, he will willingly bring to pass what we have asked for. When we pray in accordance with the will of God, the question is not if but when God will manifest what we have prayed for.