

That our joy may be complete – 1 John

[1 John 5:13-21](#)

“The Confidence God Gives” – May 17, 2020



Introduction

What in the world is going on right now? What's true? What's fact? What do we actually know? Knowledge provides us a certain level of control, but there have always been things we can't know. We want truth that we can rely on; to be confidence in what we know. The good news is there are things that God wants us to know and He wants us to know them with absolute certainty. God gives us 1 John 5:13-21 for this very purpose, that we find confidence in God and what He says.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. We know God hears us when we pray. ([5:13-15](#))
- II. We know God protects us from sin's grip. ([5:16-19](#))
- III. We know the true God in whom is true life. ([5:20-21](#))

Read & Discuss

1) Read [1 John 5:13-15](#)

Do you have confidence when you pray? How confident are you that God hears you when you pray? Knowing you're a child of God leads to confidence in our prayer life. [1 John 5:14](#) tells us God not only hears us but, this doesn't mean that God is a divine vending machine. The focus here is on God's heart. If God listens to us like a loving Father that means He listens to our prayers intently and that He cares for us. God is not cold or indifferent to your prayers. He loves you like a child and demonstrated this love by sending Christ to die and rise again for our salvation. What's more, Jesus shows us this trust in the Garden of Gethsemane. He's honest and pours out his heart and He trusts God. Christ is our hope in prayer, and He is also our greatest example in prayer. How do you see God when you come to Him in prayer? Take a moment and pour out your heart to Him now, with whatever is on your heart ([Ps. 62:8](#)) knowing He is your Father...

Additional Reading: [Psalm 116:2](#), [Hebrews 4:16](#), [Matthew 7:7-11](#), [A Praying Life](#), by Paul Miller

2) Read [1 John 5:16-19](#)

I love the warning and hope in v18: Everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning (this is a fight for faith), but (here's our hope) he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. No one will snatch you from His hand. Are you feeling stuck in sin? Are you tired of fighting? Are you discouraged? Ask God for His help right now. He is able and ready to help you. He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world ([4:4](#))! How does God protect us though? John has previously shown us the role of God's Spirit and God's word to strengthen faith. ([1 John 2:27](#), [5:13](#)) Now John points us to the role of the church family in this fight. John assumes that the church is more than a collection of strangers – we're a spiritual family of people who know each other and are close enough to see when a brother or sister falls into sin. John says, pray for them. God will grant life. Use your church directory this week to pray for different members in our church family and ask for God's help for them in their fight for faith this week in such a confusing time.

Additional Reading: [John 10:28](#)

3) Read [1 John 5:20-21](#)

John ends this encouraging letter to weary Christians with reminding them of the confidence they should have in Christ, but also with a call to obedience from a heart that is overflowing with thankfulness. He calls us to keep ourselves away from idols. What is an idol? "An idol is anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God... Idolatry is not just a failure to obey God, it is a setting of the whole heart on something besides God" (Tim Keller). What's absorbing your heart and mind lately? We won't find solid-rock-footing by trying to know what's going to happen tomorrow. And even if we have all our facts straight...it won't quiet our restless hearts. Look at what you can know with certainty because God reveals it in His word - this our great confidence and hope. Meditate on these certain truths this week, pray to God, and praise God for His kindness to His children.

Additional Reading: [Counterfeit Gods by Tim Keller](#)

*As a reminder, we've provided specific things to pray, Scripture to focus on and a song playlist for our edification and encouragement. You can find the list [here](#).

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Psalm 77 "God our Deliverer"
