

# “THE CONFIDENT CHRISTIAN”

I JOHN 5:13-15

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

## INTRODUCTION

We live in an uncertain world. Of how much can you be confident? Can you even be sure of tomorrow?

In this passage John shows us how we can have confidence in two areas:

- 1) That you actually possess eternal life—now (v. 13).
- 2) That your prayers are actually answered (14-15).

You do not need to live in uncertainty and misery. God want you to have joy and peace in your relationship.

**YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE AND ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYERS.**

### I. YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. The purpose for John’s epistle—“These things I have written to you in order that...”
- B. The practice of belief.
  1. In the Son of God—and all that His title means (Deity and humanity--incarnation; redemption, atonement, propitiation).
  2. “In His name”—all that He is in His person, as He has revealed himself to men.
  3. Believe “on” is really believe **into**—movement toward Him and entrance into a living relationship. Involves a **trust** and **commitment**.
- C. The Possession of Life.
  1. Know with confidence; no uncertainty.
    - Not wishful thinking of mere desire.
    - Not hopefulness, but uncertain.
    - Assured knowledge.
  2. Life—strongly emphasized
    - Opposite of death, true fellowship with God and God’s people.
    - All the benefits of such life.
  3. “Eternal”—more than mere unending existence; in refers to the quality of such life.
    - It is all that Christ is as “the Life”; in Him we have such life.
    - The character of this life is the main point, not mere that it lasts forever.
  4. “Have” is present continuous—have it now and always will have it!
- D. Have you believed into Him—committed your life and soul to Him? Do you have such life?
  - No point in trying to apply the rest of this sermon if you have not!
  - Believe now and be saved!

### II. YOU MUST KNOW THAT HE ANSWERS YOUR PRAYER (14-15).

- A. The meaning of **Confidence**.
  1. Freedom of speech, then boldness, confidence.
  2. You can speak whatever you need to, knowing He will not rebuke you or rebuff you.
  3. “In” Him is the preposition meaning “to, toward, right in front, in His presence”. The idea is “face to face” with Him.

- B. The limitations of answered prayer.
1. Anything (v. 14)
  2. Whatever we ask (v. 15)
  3. "According to His will"
    - Cf. "in My name"—numerous times in the Gospels, especially John.
    - Cf. "While believing"—having faith.
    - The key is to understand what "the will of God" is.
    - When we know that we have His mind and desire what He desires, we know we have the answer to our prayers.
- C. The assurance that He "hears" us.
- No necessity to speak of the God "who hears and answers" prayer; if He "hears" He answers.
- D. When we know that he "hears" us, we know that "we have the petitions that we have asked from Him."
1. The first three verbs—know, hears, have—are present continuous tense.
  2. The last verb "asked" is perfect tense—past asking with current results.
  3. "Have" is present—right now!
    - Having God and praying in His will, we already have the answers!
    - "Petitions/requests" is plural—whatever petitions made.

#### CONCLUSION

Notice the emphasis upon "knowing" in this passage.

Christianity is not a "think so, hope so" religion; it is a "know so" religion.

**You must know that He answers your prayers, but before that you must know that you have eternal life.**