



1 JOHN

LIGHT
LIFE
LOVE

PART 15: HUMBLE CONFIDENCE BEFORE GOD

1 John 5:13-15

**God desires that we would approach Him with
the humble confidence of a child.**

I. Confidence in Approaching God (1 John 5:13-14a)

John gives us the whole purpose of his letter in verse 13 –

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Jesus has appointed the Apostle John and the other Apostles to speak on His behalf. Jesus came into this world so that you and I could know God (John 17:3).

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3

God, whom Jesus calls Father, wants to be known. He is not a God of confusion. He does not play games with humanity. He wants to be known so much that He sent His Eternal Son Jesus to reveal Himself, live in our place, die in our place, and to be raised in our place so that we can have eternal life.

The good news of the gospel is that all who turn to Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as God's Eternal Son, Messiah, and Savior - who look away from themselves to Jesus - for forgiveness and new life with God - become children of God!

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God” 1 John 5:13-14a

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the humble confidence of a child.**

We see in these two verses what the rest of the New Testament teaches us. Eternal life is a life of knowing God, trusting God, loving God, and living on mission with God.

Eternal life is a life of “approaching God” while developing a conversational relationship with Him guided by His Word (John 15:7-8).

At the heart of eternal life - a relationship of knowing God - is what we call "prayer."

"Prayer is not an exercise: it is the life." Oswald Chambers

"By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me - a prayer to the God of my life." Psalm 42:8

"...I believe the most adequate description of prayer is simply, 'talking to God about what we are doing together.'" Dallas Willard

II. Confidence in Asking God (1 John 5:14-15)

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him." 1 John 5:14-15

The life of faith - life of trust will necessarily involve a lot of asking of God for all kinds of help. Most of us probably have lots of stories of asking God for things that seemingly were never given. We have lots of questions and probably some deep disappointments with unanswered prayer.

Yet John tells us we can have confidence in asking God in prayer. I want to offer two realities that I believe can serve as our ballasts or counterweights to keep us from losing our way in prayer.

- A. God always hears me, because I am His child (Psalm 4:3, Matthew 6:5-15, Luke 11:2-13).

"Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself; the Lord will hear when I call to Him." Psalm 4:3

- B. He will always answer my requests that line up with His will (John 15:7-8, 1 John 5:14-15).

Note: Refer to the "House of Prayer" series, "Part 6: Faithful, Persevering Prayer" (January-February 2020).

Ex. Story of Brother Yun praying for a Bible (see prayer stories).

III. God's Glory in Exalting Himself

The story of Brother Yun humbles us ... we need our hearts refined ... detached ... reoriented ...

*"Prayer humbles us as needy and exalts God as wealthy."
John Piper, "Desiring God"*

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