

Prayers God Answers
The Life Changed by Christ (1 Jn. 5:13-21)
September 20, 2015, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

Please open your Bible (or one in the pew) to today's text. It will help you hear from the Lord to watch the text as you listen to the message.

- 1) "These things have I written to you..." (v.13a)
 - The things before or after?
 - They assure us of properly placed faith in the midst of antichristian and other false teaching that tries to undermine our faith's foundations.
- 2) Believe on the name of the Son of God (v. 13b)
 - Repeated or not?
 - This is the crux of the issue
 - It relates to the following verses
- 3) Confidence "if we ask" (v. 14-15)
 - What is "this"? (v. 14a)
 - o Believing on the name of the Son of God (v. 13b)
 - Have you asked for "this"?
 - o He hears (v. 14c)
 - o He grants (v. 15)
 - A repetition of 3:19-23
 - Prayer believing in Jesus Christ unto salvation is heard of God and results in a powerful transformation of a condemned sinner into a child of God.
- 4) What are we to make of "sins unto death"/ "not unto death"? (v. 16-17)
 - Defining life: "real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God."¹

¹Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every*

- What life does God give in answer to this prayer?
 - The responsibility of the one in error (James 5:16)
 - Linking v. 14 and v. 16
 - “If we ask according to His will, he hears us.” (v. 14)
 - “If...he shall ask, [God] shall give him life” (v. 16)
 - Understanding “death”
 - Sin defined (v. 17)
 - A new life in Christ versus death in sin (v. 18, c.f. 1 Pet. 1:13-22)
 - A pattern of unrepentant sin is an *indication* of one who is not born of God (1 Jn. 5:18-19).
 - Can believers commit sin unto death?
 - Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)
 - Corinthians mocking communion (1 Cor. 11:27-30)
 - Sins against the church are really sins against the Holy Spirit
- 5) It comes down to knowing God (1 Jn. 5:20-21)

notes

“What John had just written about God’s testimony (5:9-12) aims to assure his readers that, despite anything the antichrists have said, believers do indeed possess eternal life... one’s assurance rests on the testimony of God.”²

“...most Greek manuscripts add the words found in the KJV... Perhaps this statement seemed redundant to some early scribe or editor and for that reason was eliminated from his manuscript. It actually prepares the ground for the discussion about prayer which follows by inviting continued faith in God’s Son... Prayer is an expression of trust in the name of God’s Son.”³

“It [the extra phrase in KJV] does not appear in the best manuscripts and is clearly a gloss, whose intrusion destroys the evident meaning of the verse.” “John’s desire for them is not that they may believe and receive, but that having believed, they may know that they have received, and therefore continue to have (present), *eternal life*.” “His purpose is to establish their assurance [which had been] unsettled by false teachers”⁴

² John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (USA: Victor Books, 1983), 902.

³ *Ibid*, 902.

⁴ J.R.W. Stott. *The Epistles of John an Introduction and Commentary*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1976), 184.