



**That You May Know Series, Part 16: Five Truths, I John 5:13-21**  
*Kent Vincent ~ April 5, 2020*

**Main Idea: We can be assured by the truths that we belong to the God who answers prayer, who gives victory over sin and that Jesus is the only way to eternal life.**

**Truths- as genuine believers, we can know:**

- I. We have Eternal Life- V. 13** *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*
- His true sheep do hear, know and follow Him and are secure in His sheepfold, forever. A true sheep belonging to Jesus may stray, but will always come back to the sheepfold and follow the Shepherd. John 10:27-29
- II. God Answers Prayer- Vs. 14-17** *And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*
- For prayers to be heard & answered: (1 Jn 3:22) 1<sup>st</sup>- *keep His commandments.*  
2<sup>nd</sup>- *do what pleases Him.* 3<sup>rd</sup> (V 14) *ask anything according to His will*
  - He knows what is best for us in the big picture. Remember: 'He is God... and I am not.'

**Vs. 16-17-** *If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. <sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reference to sin- A true believer is sinning, but it does not lead to spiritual death because the true believer knows Christ died for that sin, so the believer will repent. We should pray for a believer in sin.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reference to sin- A *sin that leads to death*. No mention of the believer.  
My take: This may refer to people who claim to be religious or even Christian, but who reject Christ and who *went out from us* because it was evident that *they were not of us*.  
I John 2:18-19. No command to not pray, but it may be futile.
  - V. 17- Believers do sin! But we are reminded to be grateful for His forgiveness of our sin.
- III. Victory Over Sin- V. 18** *We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.*

Review of the evidences of our 'new birth' ('born of God') in I John, that we:

- Keep His commands (2:3-4; 3:24);
- Walk as Jesus walked (2:5-6);
- Are lovers, not haters (2:9; 3:14; 4:7-8, 20);
- Love the Father, not the world (2:15);
- Confess the Son and have Him (2:23; 4:15; 5:12);
- Do what is right (2:29);
- Do not continue in sin (3:6, 9-10; 5:18);
- Have the Holy Spirit (3:24; 4:13);
- Listen to the Word (4:6);

- Believe Jesus is the Messiah (5:1);
- Overcome the world (5:4);
- Believe Jesus is the Son of God (5:4-5); and,
- Know that Jesus protects from the evil one (5:18).

In V. 18, John reassures our victory over sin. Those 'born of God':

- Do not keep on sinning- not perfection, but pure practice (I Jn 3:2-3);
- Have Jesus Christ as protector (Jn 17:12; I Pet 1:3; Jude 24); Who,
- Protects from "the evil one" (Heb 7:25).

#### IV. We Belong to Our Father- V. 19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

**Assurance-** No matter what happens in the world, the Father holds tightly to His children.

**Reality Check-** Many are under the control of the evil one, who:

- blinds the minds of unbelievers to keep them from seeing the gospel light. II Cor 4:3-4
- snatches up the gospel seed so that it cannot take root. Matt 13:4
- uses false teachers to lead astray by great signs and wonders. Matt 24:24; II Thes 2:9
- lures in with desires of the flesh and pride. I John 2:15-17

**HOWEVER,** *He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* I Jn 4:4

#### V. What is True- V. 20-21 <sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

**The Truth of the Incarnation:** Jesus, *the Son of God has come!* He is truth and He is eternal life. We have both because *we are in Him who is true.* However, to have assurance of that, we must *keep [ourselves] from idols.*

- *"Idol": Any substitute for the true God.*
- The New Testament gives us clear examples of idols. Col 3:5; Eph 5:5
- There are more subtle idols in life, things that are good in themselves, but which have taken priority over God.
- *"Man's nature ...is a perpetual factory of idols".* John Calvin
- As He rode triumphantly into Jerusalem, many called Him King or even Messiah. Lk 19:28-40.
- Within a week, some of the same cried out "Crucify Him!"
- John tells us He came into the world to save sinners like us. I Jn 1:2; John 1:14
- Are we any less guilty?

#### John's exhortation to know you have eternal life in a nutshell:

- **Believe** Jesus died for your sins. I Jn 4:9; 5:1
- **Obey** His commands. I Jn 2:3-4; 3:24; 5:2-3
- **Love** God and others. I Jn 2:8-10; 4:21; 5:2

#### For Consideration at Home:

- Why it is important to know certain truths and how do they comfort us?
- Christians have doubts! How should we respond when we ourselves have doubts?
- Does prayer help in giving us assurance of salvation?
- How is John's promise that we can have all the ask for misunderstood or abused?
- How should you and I respond when we see a brother or sister in Christ living in sin?
- Review the evidences of the new birth on the handout above under verse 18. Can you truly say to yourself that you know that you have eternal life?
- Can we have victory over sin if we continue to commit sin?
- How does the control of the evil one on our world effect the way you look at others?
- How does John's warning about idolatry sum up the whole book?