



## Pray

Verse 16 tells us to pray for fellow believers in sin. If you are doing this study in a Growth Group, it would be inappropriate to share names and situations publicly. This could lead to gossip disguised as a prayer request.

So, on your own, consider what fellow believers you should be praying for and do so. What about your own sin? What would you ask fellow believers to pray for you regarding your own sanctification?

What *idols* are present in your life? Take time in meditation to identify them and further time in prayer to take them before God.

Use the “we know” statements from this study as a road-map for a prayer for praise to God.



*The Epistles of John*

**KNOW THIS**

**THIS I KNOW | 1 John 5:14-21**

Study Guide 15 for sermon on 4/11/2021



## Introduction

Here we are at the end of 1 John. The letter doesn't close with a whimper, but a roar. John concludes by bringing into sharp focus the most important theme of the letter: those who hold to the apostolic teaching about Jesus can know that they have true salvation and fellowship with God. Christianity is not an “I hope so” or “I think so” faith. It is an “I know so” faith, because what has been revealed in the Bible was given to us by God. John used the word “know” 40 times in this letter and six of those are in this final passage! So let the reader finish this study, and respond in praise with these familiar words, “Jesus loves me. This I know!”



## Overview

**Context:** This final section has some interpretive challenges. Even so, don't get lost in the minutiae. The overall message is simple and clear: those who trust in Jesus Christ know they belong to the one true God.

### Structure:

- I. The prayer of the one who knows God (vv. 14-17)
- II. The victory of the one who knows God (vv. 18-21)



## Engage

1. Starting with verse 13, go through verses 13-21 and write a list of truths the follower of Christ can *know*:

(v. 13) *We know*

(vv.14-17) *We know*

(v.18) *We know*

(v.19) *We know*

(v.20) *We know*

2. Which of these truths brings you the most joy today? Which one is hardest for you to believe?
3. How should Christians respond when doubts about our salvation arise in our hearts?
4. What role does prayer play in assurance? What does a prayer from a place of doubt sound like?

5. Verse 16 is a major interpretive challenge. What is the “sin that doesn’t lead to death/does lead to death”? John Stott explains it this way:  
“The *sin that leads to death* is alluding to the false teachers. In John’s view they were not apostates; they were counterfeits. They were not true ‘brothers’ who had received eternal life and subsequently forfeited it. They were ‘antichrists.’ Denying the Son they did not possess the Father (2:22-23). They were children of the devil, not children of God (3:10). True, they had once been members of the visible congregation and had then no doubt passed as ‘brothers.’ But they went out, and by their withdrawal it was made evident that they ‘did not really belong to us’ (2:19). Since they rejected the Son, they forfeited life (5:12). Their sin did indeed lead to death.”
6. According to verse 16, what is our motivation for praying for fellow believers in sin? How often do you pray this way? Why might it be such an uncommon way to pray?
7. Is verse 18 true...*the evil one does not touch him*?
8. How is verse 21 a summary of the entire book?
9. What are your big take-aways from our study of 1 John?