

PRAY WITH BOLDNESS
(1 John 5:14-17)

I. Praying for physical blessings (vs 14-15).

- A. As children of God, we have been given eternal life.
 - 1. With that eternal life comes confidence.
 - 2. We know, because of the words and promises of God, that God will answer our prayers.
- B. This confidence or boldness is in God.
 - 1. God has done so much for us, sent His Son, provided witnesses to His Son's deity and all the other things, that we can have confidence in Him.
 - 2. God has shown Himself to be trusted with our confidence.
- C. If we ask for something that is in accordance with His will, God will give it to us.
 - 1. We learn of His will in the Bible.
 - 2. We are to ask in for things that are in compliance of harmony with what is taught about prayer in the Bible.
 - 3. This is a principle that Jesus understood, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will but as thou wilt (Matthew 26:29).
 - 4. Jesus knew He needed to pray according to the will of the Father.
- D. The phrase "heareth us" carries the idea of hearing and granting that which has been requested.
 - 1. He doesn't just hear what we ask and ignore the request.
 - 2. God hears and gives what is needed in that particular instance.
- E. When the prayer is offered we must know that God will hear and grant the request.
 - 1. This is the idea of faith.
 - 2. James told us to ask in faith with no doubting.
 - 3. We are to have complete confidence in God to grant that for which we ask as long as it is in accordance to His will.
- F. When we ask we also need to ask with the proper attitude.
 - 1. The word "desires" carries the idea of an inferior being asking a superior being.
 - 2. We can't tell God what to do in our prayers.
 - 3. God is above and beyond us and we cannot try to bring Him down to a level equal with ourselves.
 - 4. Our attitudes and words should always show great reverence and respect for God and His greatness.
- G. At times, our children will ask for things in a way that is not a request but a command.
 - 1. When this happens, we ask them, "Is that how you are supposed to ask for something from your parents?"
 - 2. As parents, we are in charge and are to be shown respect by our children.

3. In the same manner, God is in charge and His children, Christians, are supposed to show their respect for Him in asking for things in the proper manner.

II. **Praying for forgiveness for others (vs 16-17).**

- A. This verse has caused many problems over the years for people.
- B. John has said a lot about forgiveness in this short epistle.
 1. He has told us that all sin (1:8-10).
 2. He has told us that God will forgive us of sins when they are confessed (1:8-10).
 3. He has told us that Jesus is our Advocate when we do sin (2:1).
 4. He has told us what sin is (2:16).
 5. He has told us the origin of sin (3:8).
 6. He has told us how to overcome sin (3:9).
- C. John now tells us that if a brother has sinned and we know about it, we are to pray for that brother's forgiveness if it is a sin not unto death.
- D. He also says he does not tell us to pray for one who sins a sin unto death.
- E. Great confusion is found when it comes to what a sin not unto death is and what a sin unto death is.
 1. Some have said that there are certain sins that don't bring spiritual death, which is the type of death under consideration in this passage.
 2. There are no levels of sin as verse 17 tells us, so this can't be the case.
 3. Everything that would be considered unrighteous is a sin.
 4. All sin separates, therefore there are no sins that one can commit for which there is no need for forgiveness.
- F. John has revealed that all sin that is confessed to God will be forgiven (1:9).
- G. Here he reveals that there is a sin that will not be forgiven.
- H. If all sin that is confessed is forgiven, then the sin unto death must be a sin that is not confessed.
- I. Br. Woods wrote, "The sin unto death is thus a disposition of heart, a perverseness of attitude and an unwillingness of mind to acknowledge one's sin and from it turn away. Such a disposition effectively closes the door of heaven in one's face."
- J. We can have confidence to go to God in prayer on behalf of one who has sinned and confessed that sin and is seeking forgiveness.
- K. The same type attitude needed to prayer for physical blessings is needed when praying for forgiveness.