

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 5: 14-17

Lesson 21

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 5:6-13. Concentrate on verses 6-8 in the light of I John 5:10a. To what do those mentioned in these verses bear witness?
 - a. With heretics who were denying the deity of Christ infiltrating the first century churches, we can readily understand why John wrote this passage. How is I John 5:6-8 relevant to the church in the 21st century?
 - b. Summarize God's witness of His Son from I John 5:(9, 10) 11, 12.
 - 1) Without the sun there could be no life on planet earth. What parallel do you see in this and the phrase *and this life is in His Son*?
 - c. If someone asked you why John wrote this letter, what verse from I John 5:6-13 would you use for your answer? Have you memorized it yet?

Optional: Briefly state what I John 5:6-12 helps you to *believe* and *know*.

2. When you pray do you really believe God hears you and will answer your prayers? How can you have assurance and confidence that He does and will? The paragraph we will be studying this week will forever assure you that if you meet the condition, He will fulfill His promise. Note and mark this paragraph, I John 5:14-17, and define the word *prayer*. Use synonyms if you desire.
3. What request did the disciples make of Jesus in Luke 11:1?
 - a. Think for a moment of how you want this lesson to affect your prayer life. Write your desire as a prayer. Add to this prayer any other requests that come to mind concerning your study time. In cooperation with Philippians 4:6 make your requests with thanksgiving.

*Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray; This is my heart-cry day unto day;
I long to know Thy will and Thy way; Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.
Albert Simpson Reitz*

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 5: 14,15

1. Read I John 5:14, 15 over several times. Pastor Chuck says: *As a possessor of eternal life, we have many blessed benefits and privileges. One of the greatest of these is prayer. One of the old favored hymns expresses this thought with these words: What privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.* Contemplate this *privilege* as you write I John 5:14 here phrase by phrase.

- a. Write this verse in your own words personalizing it.

2. *If we meet the condition, we receive the promise.* What is the *condition* or qualification revealed in this verse to His hearing our prayer?

- a. Why is it important that we *ask* according to *His* will?

- 1) What do these verses say about this:

- (a.) Matthew 6:10

- (b.) James 4:3

- 2) Read Matthew 26:39, 42. What example of this do you see in Jesus' prayer?

- 3) How does John 15:7 relate to I John 5:14?

Challenge: How can we know whether or not we're praying according to His will? Support your answer with scripture, if possible,

3. What conditions for answered prayer are given in I John 3:(21) 22 (23)?

- a. How could not keeping His *commandments* (verse 23) and *doing those things that are pleasing in His sight* be hindrances to our *confidence* in prayer?

4. Print in bold letters the last phrase of I John 5:14 _____

- a. Meditate on this truth for a moment. Share the joy of the Psalmist's first-hand experience of this by writing:

- 1) Psalm 18:6

- 2) Psalm 34:6

3) Psalm 66:(16) 19 (20)

4) Psalm 77:1

5) Psalm 116:1, 2

5. What does knowing God *hears* you when you pray mean to you today?

*O what pence we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.
Joseph M. Scriven*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 5:14, 15

1. Write from I John 5:15 what we *know* about prayer.
 - a. Allow the truth and power contained in this verse to be absorbed in your spiritual bloodstream and nourish your prayer life. Memorize I John 5: 14, 15, if possible. How does this verse counteract the doubts that we encounter in prayer?
2. The key word in I John 5:14, 15 is ASK. Record what the following verses teach us about this in relationship to prayer:
 - a. Matthew 7:7, 8
 - b. Matthew 21:22
 - c. John 14:13, 14
 - d. John 15:16b
 - e. John 16:24
 - f. Ephesians 3:20
 - g. James 1:5, 6
 - h. James 4:2b
 - i. Review these verses and star the one that is especially significant to you today and tell why.
3. Pause to meditate on the last phrase of I John 5:15. Knowing that God hears and answers our prayers (petitions), it is incomprehensible that we do not pray more. Why do you think believers are often careless or negligent about praying?

- a. Think about this in light of Luke 18:1b. How does this speak to you?
4. In what way does I John 5:14, 15 press you to greater fervency in prayer?
- a. Stop. Take time now to pray about those things that are of greatest concern in your life today.

*Were half the breath that's vainly spent:
'To heaven in supplication sent,
Our cheerful song would oftener be,
"Hear what the Lord has done for me."
William Cowper*

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 5:16

1. What does I John 5:16a teach about praying?

2. Define the word *intercession* as it relates to prayer.
 - a. Every believer is to be an intercessor. Read this version of I John 5:16a: *If anyone sees his brother (fellow believer) commit a sin that does not lead to death he should pray for him and God will give him life.* What is this verse saying to you about your responsibility if you know about a Christian who is ensnared in sin?
 - 1) When we are aware of another Christian's failure spiritually, it is very easy for us to become critical and condemning or sometimes, in our concern, we simply talk to others about it, but do nothing constructive towards restoration. Why do you think we do this?
 - (a.) If we do not understand that the Lord has let us know about that one's sin so that we will pray, we can become harsh and judgmental. What is the first thing we ought to do and why?
 - (b.) Consider Samuel's example of this in I Samuel 12:(20, 22) 23 (24). What do you see?
 - 2) The phrase *God will give him life* refers to God's answer to your prayer. To think that the Lord gives us an opportunity to be a part of the deliverance of a sinning brother or sister is an awesome privilege. How does I John 5:16a refocus our attention when we're tempted to make the failing Christian an object of conversation or gossip?

Challenge: How does the *priesthood* of every believer relate to intercession? (I Peter 2:5)

3. If a Christian came to you and confessed a fault (sin), in accordance with James 5:16a, what is your obligation?
 - a. View James 5:16b in relationship to I John 5:16a. What is the promise here?
 - 1) Observe Elijah's example of this promise (James 5:16b) from James 5:17, 18. How is this applicable to you?
 - 2) In what way does it build your faith in your praying for others?
 - b. Observe Moses' intercession for the sinning Children of Israel from Deuteronomy 9:18-20. What word would you use to describe his intercession?
4. What joy would it give you to see a Christian restored because you prayed?

*Everything depends on prayer,
and yet we neglect it not only to our own spiritual hurt
but also to the delay and injury of our Lord's cause upon earth.
The forces of good and evil are contending for the world. If we would, we
could add to the conquering power of the army of righteousness Pray!
-selected*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 5:16, 17

1. There are several interpretations of the *sin unto death* in I John 5:16c. Do not get sidetracked by this and miss the central message of I John 5:16. Write it. here.
2. For insight into what the *sin unto death* might refer to, briefly record in your own words the information from the following scriptures:
 - 1 Mark 3:29
 - 2 Act 5:1-11
 - 3 I Corinthians 11:27-30
 - 4 Hebrews 6:4-6

- a. Perhaps John had in mind the *antichrists* (I John 4:2-4) who were troubling the churches with their heresy that denied Jesus as God's Son. Notice that John does not explicitly forbid prayer, but he does not recommend it. It may be that he wanted to direct the believers' attention more to prayer for the purity of the congregation than for the blasphemers. Why might this be?
3. In the Old Testament we discover God forbidding the prophets to pray for Israel, His people, at certain times. Look at this from Jeremiah 7:(12-15) 16 (17-28). Why was Jeremiah not to pray for them?
4. Explain I John 5:17a in your own words in the light of Romans 3:10, 23 and 6:23.
5. I John 5:16b, 17 is not designed to cause us to be caught in a web of determining whom we should or should not pray for. See it as a warning against the danger of sinning. Return to the main point of this verse by closely observing Epaphras, an intercessor, from Colossians 4:12. What do you see in his life that is applicable to you?

*Pray at all times – on every occasion, in every season – in the Spirit,
with all (manner of) prayer and entreaty.
To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose
and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints
God's consecrated people).*

Ephesians 6:18 AMP

SIXTH DAY: I John 5:14-17

1. Record what I John 5:14, 15 teaches about prayer. Note the progression of each phrase.
2. Read I John 5:14, 15 again. What is your reaction in response to these verses?
 - a. Do you have an ever-increasing longing to be more diligent in prayer? If so, write your prayer here.
3. In what way does I John 5:16a speak to you about praying for others?
 - b. What is the major reason the Lord allows you to know about a brother or sister in the faith who is committing sin'?
 - 1) Share a testimony, if possible, where you experienced an answer to prayer in this kind of situation.

4. Intercession for others is not limited to Christians who are sinning. List some of the things from Paul's prayers that you can include in yours:
 - a. Ephesians 1:(15) 16-19
 - b. Ephesians 3:(14, 15) 16-19 (20, 21)
 - c. Colossians 1:9-11
 - d. List four people for whom you want to pray today and write one thing you deeply desire for them in your prayers.
5. We know we can send up arrow prayers any time, any place. We also are admonished in the Bible by word and example to spend time alone and together with others in prayer. Support this by the following scriptures:
 - a. Matthew 14:23
 - b. Matthew 18:(18) 19, 20
 - c. Acts 2:42
 - d. Acts 12:5
6. When and where do you find it most convenient to pray on a regular basis?
7. How do these truths in the lesson concerning prayer fit into your life?
 - a. What action will you take in response to this lesson?

*Then let us earnest be
And never faint in prayer:
He loves our importunity,
And makes our cause His care.
-John Newton*