

## Doctrinal Summary of Prayer: Confidence for Reception

In 1 John 5:14 John identifies that believers can have confidence that God will grant their request.

“This is the confidence we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

The word “confidence” is translated from the Koine Greek word παρρησία (“par-rae-si-ah”) which more literally means, “courage to speak freely and openly because of confidence in one’s standing, based on response.” It identifies a mental attitude of boldness from which an individual can speak without fear. This lack of fear is derived from his knowledge about the relationship and standing he has with the one to whom he speaks. Thus, this confidence is based on response to the standing and relationship he has with the other. That other, in John’s statement, is none other than the God of the Universe. As the believer asks God for his desired petition, he does so in full confidence that he will receive from God his desired petition. This confidence comes from the believer’s right to make his request to God as well as the fact that his request will be granted as long as it meets the norms and standards of God’s will.

The word “if” is translated from the Koine Greek word ἐάν (“eh-an”) which more literally means, “If, maybe it is the case, maybe it is not the case.” It functions to introduce a condition that may or may not be met. If the condition is met, then the expressed result will occur. But, if the condition is not met, then the expressed result will not occur. The reality of the expressed result occurring is contingent upon whether or not the condition is fulfilled. Here the condition is asking for something in accordance with God’s will. The result of doing so is the granting of what has been requested. Consequently, the believer can have confidence that God will indeed grant his request when his request is in accordance with God’s will. Whether the request is in fact according to God’s will may or may not be true.

The words “according to” are translated from the Koine Greek word κατὰ (“kah-tah”) which more literally means, “according to the norms and standards of.” It identifies that something is in agreement with or is accomplished in such a way as that it meets the normal characteristics and required standards of something. Here that “something” is the will of God.

The word “will” is translated from the Koine Greek word θέλημα (“the-lae-mah”) which more literally means, “desired objective pursued by choosing to carry out a specific course of action.” It identifies both a desired objective and a process by which that objective is attempted to be obtained or accomplished. The desired objective or result is pursued through a course of action that is best thought to achieve accomplishing the objective. Here, the desired objective being pursued is God’s. When the believer’s desired petition meets is in line with God’s desired objective God will hear and grant his request.

The word “hear” is translated from the Koine Greek word ἀκούει (“ah-kou-ei”) which more literally means, “he really performs the continuous type of action to hear and respond positively or appropriately to what was heard.” It identifies two components: hearing something and responding in the appropriate or affirmative manner to what was heard. When the believer asks for anything that is in line with God’s will, God will grant it to him because the believer has asked for what God also desires. If the desired petition is not in accordance with God’s will, then the believer should not expect that God will grant it.

Thus, the believers can have confidence that God will grant them their desired petitions if, and only if, those petitions are in accordance with the norms and standards of God’s own desired objectives.