

1John 5:14–15

The Key to Confidence in Prayer

Thursday, July 4, 2024 ▪ Read 1John 5:14–15

*Questions from the Scripture text: What do we have (v14)? In Whom? What does this confidence enable us to do? To ask according to what? What does He do? Who can know this (v15)? About what requests? What can we know (in addition to that He hears us)?*

**How can we pray confidently?** 1John 5:14–15 prepares us for the second serial reading in public worship on the Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **assurance of faith makes us sure that God hears us and answers us.**

**Confidence in Him.** Those who know that they have eternal life (v13) have confidence not in themselves, but in Him (v14). Their confidence is that God has done this. Assurance is not a confidence in ourselves, the doctrine upon which we have concluded, the obedience we have achieved, or the love we have cultivated. Assurance is confidence in God Himself and His grace by which He has worked in our lives.

**Confidence that He hears.** And if God has brought us into faith in His Son by His Spirit, then surely He hears us when we pray! This is one of the great practical applications of assurance: it gives us confidence in prayer. Not just that God hears prayer, but that He hears me, specifically, as I am praying. That His Spirit is the One Who is carrying me to pray. That I am received in His Son as I pray. That He is listening to me in Fatherly affection and care. This is something even greater than getting what we ask for: being heard by the living God, having fellowship with the living God.

**Confidence to ask great things.** The qualification "according to His will" governs v15 as well as v14. But there is a repeated idea that gets the emphasis: "ask anything" (v14) and its counterpart "whatever we ask" (v15). God has willed great and glorious things. Asking according to His will, and knowing that God Himself has regard for one's person and one's prayers, means asking for great and glorious things.

**Confidence that He answers.** Finally, assurance gives us confidence not only that we are heard, but that God is answering. He was always going to do His will, of course. But assurance of faith brings us into the glorious confidence that when He does those things that we have asked, it is in actual response to our petitions. He has given us His Son so that we might have the privilege of actually obtaining things from Him through prayer!

How confident do you feel while praying? How much of that confidence is on God's interaction with you, listening to you, as you pray? What sort of great/glorious things do you pray for? What have you obtained from God in prayer?

*Sample prayer: Lord, please grant unto us assurance of faith, and please grant that we would make good application of it in prayer. For, we confess that we have often disbelieved that You were listening, or were even unaffected by the idea that You listen. Forgive us for not asking according to Your will, and for restricting ourselves to small requests, when You have given us such a large invitation. Forgive us for the unbelieving suspicions that prayer does not actually obtain anything. For these sins, forgive us, and from these sins cleanse us, so that we might pray with assurance-sustained confidence by Your Spirit, through Your Son, in Whose Name we ask it, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP5 "Listen to My Words, O LORD" or TPH518 "Come, My Soul, with Every Care"**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

First John chapter 5 verses 14 and 15. These are God's words. Now, this is the confidence that we have in him. That if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us. And if we know that he hears us whatever we ask, We know that we have the petitions.

That we have asked of him.

So far. Reading of Gods, inspired and diner, and twerked. The apostles just told us that The reason for which the spirit has had him write this letter. Is that those who already believe in the name of the son of God may know. That they have eternal life. So, he's written this letter for the purpose.

Of stirring us up to Assurance of our own individual. In the Lord, Jesus. For the purpose of assuring. Or our gaining Assurance by the spirit. That we are in a state of grace. Now, he tells us One of the important reasons for Assurance of Faith, It's not just so that those who believe that you can have Assurance and not to pursue it can argue with those who don't believe that you can and that That it's dangerous to pursue it.

And he tells us, one of the reasons for pursuing Assurance of faith and that is That we will have confidence that he hears us. When we pray, Now, there are many. Who lack this confidence. They profess Christ, but they don't have Assurance of Faith. They're not. Don't have confidence that they are in a state of grace.

They don't have confidence that they have been made Alive by the holy spirit that they are united to Christ. And so lacking that confidence about the spirit and lacking that confidence about the son. They also then lack confidence about the father. They come and they pray. And it feels like their prayers are bouncing off of the ceiling like they can't lift their hearts up at all.

Like, it's just a spiritual exercise, a religious. Ritual. But that God isn't actually listening to them. But if you have Assurance of Faith, if by his use of his word and his work in your life, the spirit Has brought you into a confidence? That you have the Holy spirit that you are united to Christ.

That you are a child of the Then when you pray, You know, that he hears you So verse 14 says, now this is the confidence that we have an in. In other words, if I know that I have eternal life, if I know that I am, his here, is another part, a big part of the confidence that we have in him that if we ask anything according to his will that's an important part of the confidence.

Assurance does not turn God into a genie who allows us to ask for huge things that harm ourselves? it assures us that he hears us according to his goodness. So it's according to his will, the will in which he gave us Christ. The will in which he gave us a spirit to bring us to Faith in Christ.

That is, the will according to, which we are to pray and the will according to what she hears us. Now, this is the confidence that we have in him. That if we ask anything according to his, will he hears us? And notice how verse 14 differentiates his hearing us.

From verse 15 in which it talks about his giving us whatever we ask. The great part. Of Christian prayer. By someone who has been given Union with Christ, by the work of the spirit is not that you get the stuff that you ask, it's that the god to whom we are praying.

Listens He has regard for us. He cares for our lifting up, our hearts, and our lifting up our voices to him. This is the wonderful thing about prayer. He hears us. He regards. He cares for us. He's listening. And we know that he is doing this. Because we know that we are his Now, if you understand that connection, About Assurance of faith and the difference it makes in Christian prayer.

Then, surely that gives you incentive to pursue this Assurance of faith, that the Bible teaches us that the holy spirit gives us That we want, not only To know that Jesus

Saves and to trust in him. But to know that we ourselves are individually saved, which of course, has its own reward in the peace and the joy.

Piece of conscience and joy in the Holy Ghost that that gives you. But also now this added reward. That our fellowship with God In Prayer. Becomes great. Because we know that he is hearing us, We know. That he is carrying about our prayer. I want you. To have that.

My dear family, I want me to have that even more. I am rebuked now. For all those times, I have prayed without that fellowship with God and that confidence that he is hearing me. because It indicates, it's a symptom. Of not having been built up in Assurance. And therefore not having pursued Assurance, according to scripture, By the way, that the Bible teaches us, that the spirit gives it to us.

And then he says, and if we know that he hears us Whatever we ask. We know that we have the petitions. That we have asked of him still, it's still those things that are according to his will. In verse 14. But you notice the way verse 15 teaches us to ask for things.

That are in keeping with the greatness and the glory of our god doom, we come. And the greatness and the grace. Of the gospel. And the relationship with him. The blessedness and righteousness in Christ into which he has brought us. So he says, and if we know that he hears us, Whatever we ask.

There's a man in her church who Has had on his mind for several weeks now. that portion of the John Newton him. You are coming to a king. Large petitions. With you, bring. That is the theology. Of verse 15. That we enjoy. Not just the sweetness, but the bigness.

Of belonging to God. And knowing that he hears us. Not just the certainty, but the greatness. Of praying for things that are according to his will. Well, there are some pretty huge things that are according to his will. And so, as we think about the things that are according to his will to pray for Then it honors God much.

And it is in a court, in proper court with who he is and the relationship into which he has brought us. That we would pray, the great things that he has Wilt. Just as the Lord, Jesus himself teaches us to pray, doesn't he? And he says, your father knows what you need before you ask, that's kind of the according to his will pray.

Therefore, pray in this way. And he starts with huge things. That God's name would be hallowed. That his kingdom would come, that his will would be done. And he does include, of course, also, Smaller things like, That we would have. Our daily bread is from him. And enjoy it in him.

Like we were thinking about from some from Isaiah 62 yesterday.

So, let's come to the Lord together in prayer. Our gracious God in our heavenly father, we pray That you would give us this Assurance of faith that we have been reading and hearing and Thinking about throughout this little book of First, John, Pray for each of us, that you would give us to cultivate Our own relationship with you.

Like a little garden that we would keep it weeded. And put away said that, we would keep it watered. And spend time with you and your word and in prayer. And deal sincerely with you and family worship and prayer meeting. The public worship. And that having cultivated our relationship with you, you would give us To enjoy its fruit.

To enjoy Assurance of Faith. To know that you are listening to us. When we pray to you. That we might also even. pray for the great things that are according to your will, That you would Gather in all of your elect. That you would build up your church.

That you would come. Repeated outpourings of your spirit. And give times of Revival. And Reformation. Until you have brought about all of your saving work. And you Usher in the last day. And the return of Christ. And the resurrection from the dead. And the Judgment in which we are acknowledged and to quit it.

And the wedding supper of the lamb. An eternal blessedness in you in. And the new Heavens, any Earth. And so help us. We pray with Assurance. So that we may be brought to pray this way with this confidence. And in this manner, For, we ask it in Jesus name.

Amen.