

Hopewell ARP Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, September 16, 2020
Devotional on 1John 5:15

And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

How big a prayer are you willing to ask of God? At what point does it get to be so big that you doubt whether God would be willing to answer your petition in the affirmative?

This verse follows upon the one that we heard last week about how our confidence in Christ (v13) expresses itself in asking anything according to God's will (v14)—and knowing that He who gave us His Son will surely give us His ear, whenever we pray.

Now, v15 says: "If you have the ear of God, in all things that are according to His will, how big a thing are you willing to ask of Him?"

Of course, we should be asking for everything that we need. Be anxious for *nothing*, but in *everything*, make your requests known to Him (Phil 4:6). Casting *all* your care upon Him, because He cares for you (1Pet 5:7). The Lord Jesus teaches us to pray even for "our daily bread" (Mat 6:11).

But for what else does He teach us to pray?

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mat 6:10b). That's huge! What a difference it would make in the culture, or even in the churches of this culture!

"Thy kingdom come" (Mat 6:10a). That's even bigger. Accomplish the spread of the gospel across the whole earth. Subdue every last elect sinner, bringing them to faith in Christ, and conforming them to the shape of Christ. And then return, fulfill the kingdom, and deliver it to the Father (1Cor 15:21–28). "The Spirit and the Bride say 'come'" (Rev 22:17, 20). Huge!

But the biggest of all is the one that Jesus actually taught us to lead with: "Hallowed be Thy Name" (Mat 6:9). This is the purpose of everything. The kingdom comes for the hallowing of God's Name. God's will is done for the hallowing of His Name. Creation, Redemption, Consummation... all are for the hallowing of His Name. All things are from Him, and through Him, and to Him; to Him be the glory forever and ever, amen (Rom 11:36)!

Whatever we ask. The confidence that He hears us when we ask *anything* according to His will should result in our willingness and diligence to ask *for everything* that is according to His will!

And not just to ask, but to be sure *that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him*. This is why our prayers and supplications are always to be *with thanksgiving* (Phil 4:6), not only because we are thankful for what we have already received (as we should be!), but because if we are asking according to His will (which we should be!), we may be sure already that we have what we are asking, and we may be thankful in advance for the granting of the request!

What liberty and joy we would have in prayer, if we did it from Scripture that we might know that it is according to His will, and if we therefore didn't have a shadow of a doubt that we are receiving what we ask for!

And, how greatly is this liberty and joy magnified, when we learn to ask for so large a thing as for the greatest thing that there can be: "Hallowed be Thy Name."

And how persistently is this liberty and joy renewed, when we learn to ask continually for even the smallest of things: "Give us this day our daily bread."

"And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." AMEN!

(The following is an auto-transcribed manuscript. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

First John 5 verse 13, these are the words of God. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life and.

That you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. Now this as a 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.

And the last verse there is our lesson for this evening, 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 how big a prayer are you willing to ask of God? And as there are some point at which it gets to be so big that you find yourself doubting whether God is willing to answer your petition in the affirmative if you're willing to give you. Let you have what you ask.

Verse before us this evening, and if we know that he hears us whatever we ask we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of him. His first follows upon the one that we heard last week about how our confidence in Christ from verse 13 expresses itself in asking anything according to God's will Verse 14 and therefore knowing that he who gave us his son will surely give us also his ear.

Whenever we pray. That we when we ask anything according to his will he hears us. So now verse 15 comes to us and says if you have the ear of God in anything that is according to his will how big a thing or how many things are you willing to ask of him?

Of course we should be asking for everything that we need be anxious for nothing but in everything make your requests known to him. Philippians 4 verse 6 or casting all your care upon him because he cares for you. First Peter 5 verse 7. And the Lord Jesus teaches us to pray even for our daily bread.

Matthew 6 verse 11. But think of what else Jesus teaches us to pray for. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. That is a very big prayer. You imagine the difference it would make in our nation. If the Lord Jesus were to answer that prayer in short order in our country.

I will be done on earth as it isn't heaven. In fact, sadly such as the state of the church in our age and these this place at this time that it would make a tremendous difference in the church. If we were granted that petition in short order. I will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

That is a huge prayer. It's even a bigger prayer to pray what he teaches us to pray one phrase earlier thy kingdom come. What are we asking for if we pray thy kingdom come where asking that he would complete the spread of the gospel according to the whole earth that he would take captive every last elect sinner.

Bringing the last of the elect to faith in Christ conforming them to the shape of Christ and then return fulfilling the kingdom and handing it over to the Father

for Corinthians 15 verses 21 to 28 and delivering the Kingdom to the Father. We be praying what we are taught to pray also the end of Revelation.

That the Spirit says come and he teaches the bride and the Spirit and the bride together say come. That's a even bigger petition than thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. The biggest of all is the one that Jesus actually leads his model prayer for prayer with hallowed be thy name.

The hallowing of God's name the glorifying of God is the purpose of everything. The reason the kingdom comes is for the hallowing of God's name the reason. His will is to be done is for the hallowing of his name. His creating was for the hallowing of his name his redeeming for the hallowing of his name his bringing to final consummation the fulfillment of everything that he has planned and the final end of it all is for the hallowing of his name as Romans 11 verse 36 says, All things are from him and through him and to him.

To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. So our verse tonight 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. Whatever we ask the confidence that he hears us when we ask anything according to his will should result in our willingness and diligence not just to ask anything that is according to his will but to ask for everything.

That is according to his will. And not just to ask but as our verse says to be sure that we have the petitions that we have asked of him. This is why our prayers and supplications are always to be with thanksgiving as we heard from Philippians chapter 4 not only because we are to be thankful for whatever we have and have already received as we should be thankful but also because if we are asking according to his will which we must ask according to his will then we may be sure already.

That we have what we are asking. And we may be thankful in advance for the granting of the request. What liberty enjoy this gives us in prayer. To do it from scripture, so that we may know that it is according to his will. And if the therefore we are asking according to his will that we wouldn't have a shadow of a doubt that we are receiving what we are asking for.

And how greatly is this liberty enjoy magnified when we learned to ask for so large a thing as for the greatest thing that there can be hallow would be thy name and for everything else. That lends itself for is weredained by God unto the howling of his name. And not just how great is our liberty and joy but then how persistently it is is it renewed if we learn to ask continually not just for the great things that he has expressed as his will but even the smallest give us this day our daily bread.

Indeed is our Texas tonight, if we know that he hears us whatever we ask we know that we have the petitions. That we have asked of him. Amen. The Lord grant to us to conform our praying to what we've seen in these two verses these last two weeks and first John chapter five that we may have great liberty and great joy and great confidence as we come before him.

In prayer let's do so tonight we begin with the prayers of adoration this week, especially acknowledging that when we have said all that we can of the glorious perfections of the divine nature we fall infinitely short of the merit of the subject let's begin together. Behold these are but the fringes of his ways and how faint a word we hear of God, but his mighty thunder who can understand.