

**Hopewell ARP Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, September 2, 2020**  
**Devotional on 1John 3:22**

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

Here is a great benefit of maintaining a right conscience from God's Word: the prayers formed in the mind of one with such a conscience will be answered in the affirmative!

When we learn that "God is greater than our heart," so that what He sees and what matters to Him becomes more important to us than that which would otherwise come out of our own hearts, then we are ready truly to pray "in Jesus's Name."

What a wonderful condition to be in: to read and meditate upon God's holy law, in sensitivity to His Spirit, and yet do so with hearts that do not condemn us!

This is possible, of course, only by keeping the shortest accounts with God. For, we sin in much (cf. 1Jn 1:9). Yet, all of our loving God and others in deed and truth comes from knowing His love to us in Christ (3:16–19).

As we lay hold of Christ in prayer, assured of forgiveness and asking that we might be made like Christ, our hearts are assured that this shall indeed be the case!

Here is the goal of the one praying such assured prayers: "to keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

This is no divine sleight-of-hand, in which the only assured prayers are the ones that are less than what we might otherwise have asked for. Exactly the opposite! For, it is only when we desire these excellent and best things that we can be assured of what we ask.

It is similar to the logic of Psalm 37:4–6. *"Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday."*

And can it be thought that we would stop "keeping His commandments" when it comes time to pray? Or that we would "do those things that are pleasing in His sight"—except when we come to call upon His Name? God forbid (cf. Lev 10:3)!

So, here, especially we lay hold of Christ for forgiveness. And then, assured of God's forgiveness and love in Jesus, we begin asking Him for those things that we know from His Word are His pleasure. For indeed, we know that they are also His plan.

And that it is His plan to give them through our praying: "and whatever we ask we receive from Him." It pleases Him for us to have assured hearts and to know that He carries out His holy will in loving, fatherly response to the sounds of our voices and the cries of our hearts!