

Faith Talk - August 30, 2026

Series: 1 John: Life in the Light and Love of God

Sermon: Confidence in Prayer

Scripture: 1 John 5:14

This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Summary

Having assured us of the eternal life we have in Christ, John now points us to the confidence we have when we come before God. Because of our Christ-earned assurance, believers have a Christ-earned confidence as they approach God in prayer.

John illustrates this by giving instruction on the confidence believers may have when praying for God's will. John reminds us that when we ask ANYTHING according to God's will, He hears us. While this truth alone is powerful — how meaningful is it to know that you are heard by the God — there is even more to give us confidence. John reminds us that when God hears us ask according to His will, we have such confidence in the faithfulness and character of God to know that we have what we asked of Him.

John then provides an even more practical example. When one Christian sees another Christian sin, they can pray with confidence according to God's will and know that God will give life. How great is this confidence that we can know God will bring light in the darkness and life to those who believe!

John does mention that there are those who commit sin that leads to death, and these verses can attract our attention as we seek to understand a complicated idea. It may be helpful to understand that John is likely talking about sin that you do not confess and repent of as being sin that leads to death. Remember, though, that the only reason there is any "sin that doesn't lead to death" (v. 17) is because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

This assurance of salvation because of the work of Christ is where John has his attention. And because of that assurance earned by Christ, we approach prayer with a Christ-earned confidence.

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

- How would basing your confidence in prayer on your assurance in Christ versus the outcomes of your prayers change your daily prayer life?
- What moments or experiences in the past have given you more confidence when you pray? What, if any, moments or experiences have given you less confidence when you pray?
- What are practical steps you take (or can take) to pray for God's will and not just what you want?

Conversations with Students

- What does your prayer life look like right now? Are there times that you find it easier to pray or times when you find it harder to pray?
- What moments or experiences in the past have given you more confidence when you pray? What, if any, moments or experiences have given you less confidence when you pray?
- What are practical steps you take (or can take) to pray for God's will and not just what you want?

Conversations with Kids

- What is prayer? How would you explain it to a friend at school if they asked?
- The Bible tells us that everyone who believes in Jesus can pray with confidence. Do you have confidence when you pray? Why or why not?
- What is one thing we can pray for with confidence this week?

Closing Prayer

Father, **thank You** for saving us through the work of Your Son, Jesus, and for giving us eternal life through Him. Thank you for being a God who listens to us, and that, because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can be heard by You.

We ask to deepen our confidence as we pray. Help us connect that confidence not to our circumstances, but to our assurance of the eternal life found in Your Son.

We Commit to praying according to Your will, and to praying on behalf of other believers. We will pray with confidence because we have been given eternal life in Your Son, Jesus.