**Day 27 – Guidance for Prayer**

5:14-15

John continues with the theme of assurance, based on the confidence we have in Jesus. This is the confidence we have when we know we have eternal life… that that life is in us! How does life in Jesus give us confidence for the needs and problems of daily life?

1. According to verse 14, what confidence do we have in Christ?

2. According to verse 15, if we know that he hears what we ask, what can we be assured of?

Note: John has developed the idea of “confidence in Him” throughout this letter. Confidence when we know we have fellowship and sonship.

3. In the following verses, we see we can have confidence when?

1John 2:28

1John 4:17

4. In 1John 5:13, we can have confidence in what?

Now, for those who know they have eternal life, John relates the idea of confidence in Him for prayer. Let’s examine more closely three truths we have in play when John writes, **“If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us”.**

5. God is a loving God, and a generous giver, so He wants us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in prayer.

6. God wants us to “ask anything”. Does that imply that “anything” we ask for will be granted? Let me ask this; is there anything too small or too big to pray about… to ask for? So God wants us to ask anything in what sense?

How does Phil. 4:6 help us to understand what it means to “ask anything”?

7. What is the third truth about prayer we see here? Hint: There is a condition stated. What is it?

8. What other conditions for prayer do we find in the following verses?

1 John 3:21-22

PS. 66:18

John 15:7

Matt 6:10

John 9:31

Note: Go back and look at the “Lord’s Prayer” and notice the heart of submission that must come before asking. The order cannot be reversed. We cannot expect God to grant us our desires when we refuse to submit to His will.

9. According to verse 15, when we ask according to God’s will, we have what confidence?

10. To know the will of God, to be able to pray the promises of God or pray in line with God’s Word, we must what?

11. Through His Word we are sure of His will. What do we learn from Jesus, in John 15:7?

Note: There are times when we can only pray, “not my will but Thy will be done”, because we simply do not know God’s will in a matter. But much of the time we can determine God’s will by reading the word, listening to the Spirit (see Rom. 8:26-27), and discerning the circumstances around us. Our very faith to ask God for something is often proof that He wants to give us the request. (See Heb. 11:1.)

12. Getting back to V15, notice that John does not write, “We shall have the requests”, but, “we KNOW that we have the requests”. And know is in the present tense, which means we “continually know”. We may not see the answer to a prayer immediately, but we have inner confidence that what?

Hint: God witnesses to our heart that He has heard and answered.

**Application:**

Do you have confidence in prayer? Do you have a Philippians 4:6 “prayer life”? And let’s remember, prayer is necessary to have fellowship with God. Take time to consider these things and anything else God may be speaking to your heart.

Take some time to share your heart with God! God loves to hear from His kids!