

Living in Bold Confidence

Text: 1 John 5:14-21
Topics: Boldness, Confidence
Series: Bold Assurance

South Orlando Baptist Church
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Dr. David Crowe

To live in bold confidence...

1. Pray according to God's will (1 John 5:13-17)

A. "according to his will." This phrase constitutes a strategic key to answered prayer. To pray according to God's will is to pray in accord with what he would want, not what we would desire or insist that he do for us.

(MacArthur)

B. God's will is found clearly in His word. John 15:7 (ESV) "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

C. Pray for God to grant life to a brother struggling in sin. "Sin that leads to death" is probably sin that is (1) unrepented of and (2) of the kind or nature that John has warned about throughout the letter: resolute rejection of the true doctrine about Christ, chronic disobedience to God's commandments, persistent lack of love for fellow believers—all indications of a lack of saving faith—which will not be forgiven. (ESV Study Bible)

2. Put away all sin (1 John 5:18-19)

A. 1 John 3:9 (ESV) 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (Read all of 1 John 3:6-10)

B. 1 John 1:9 (HCSB) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3. Pursue God wholeheartedly (1 John 5:20-21)

A. Kneel to the Biblical view of Christ - "He is the true God and eternal life." Jesus is God - John 1:1, 14; 8:58; Revelation 22:13; Matthew 1:23.

B. "Keep yourself from Idols" - "What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give." (Tim Keller)

C. Good questions to ask to discern the idols in your heart - What are you most afraid of? What do you long for most passionately? Where do you run for comfort? What do you complain about most? What angers you the most? What makes you happiest? How do you explain yourself to other people? What has caused you to be angry at God? What do you want to have more than anything else? What do you make the biggest sacrifices for? Whose approval are you seeking? And what do you treasure the most?

Application Questions

1. What sort of things do people today pin their hopes on?
2. Why did John write this letter? (5:13)
3. What confidence can believers have? (5:14-15)
4. About what type of sin did John say his readers should pray? (5:16)
5. What is sin? (5:17)
6. What does the person born of God stop doing? (5:18)
7. What sort of protection do Christians enjoy? (5:18)
8. Under whose control is the whole world? (5:19)
9. What has the Son of God done, and what has He given? (5:20)
10. Who is Jesus Christ? (5:20)
11. What was the last instruction John left with his readers? (5:21)
12. How can we be confident that we have eternal life?
13. When is it hard for you to approach God with confidence?
14. How can we know whether something is according to God's will?
15. In what way can sin lead to death?
16. To what sort of death might sin lead?
17. In what way has sin led to death in your life?
18. What type of sin does not lead to death?
19. By what modern "idols" are you tempted?
20. About what issue do you need to approach God more confidently?
21. What specific step can you take this week to place more confidence in God and less in the idols of this world?
22. For what fellow believer who has sinned will you pray today?
23. What matter will you bring before God this week?

