

Beloved: A Study of 1, 2, & 3 John
Lesson Eight – Be Confident
1 John 5:13-21a

“Putting together the purposes of Gospel and letter, John’s purpose is in four stages, namely that his readers may hear, hearing may believe, believing may live, and living may know” (John Stott, *The Letters of John: An Introduction and Commentary*, Logos).

I. That You May Know - (v. 13)

Evidence and Assurance of Salvation

II. Answered Prayer – (v. 14-15)

Why do we ask?

God is not a formula to master. We don’t jump through the right hoops to manipulate God. He is a relational being we come to know.

The Model Prayer – (Matthew 6:9-13)

“Our Father..”

Tim Keller said, "The only person who dares wake up a king at 3:00 AM for a glass of water is a child. We have that kind of access."

Worship God’s Name

Surrendering to His will must precede the asking.

"Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

“Give us...”

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:7-11)

"You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not

know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:2b-4).

"Jesus teaches us to include the phrase "give us" in our prayers. Daily, as we ask, He weans us off our addiction to independence, our insistence on living under the illusion that what we most deeply desire we can feed ourselves all on our own...Prayer replaces control with trust. A God-given desire is only fulfilled by God-given means." (*Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools: An Invitation to the Wonder and Mystery of Prayer*).

Do you trust God? Are you living in the assurance of the Father's love?

Prayer Journal – keeping record of your prayers – record of God's faithfulness.

A spoiled child receives everything they want. Do we hold God to the standard of the parents of a spoiled child? That is how we are acting when we go to God and say, "Why did you not come through and do things the way I thought they should be done?"

III. Sin and Death – (v. 16-17)

"Sin is any effort to make life work without absolute dependence on God. It is giving higher priority to my satisfaction than to God's pleasure, it involves a follow-up commitment to find joy for my soul outside of God, a commitment rooted in the belief that there is something truly good that God does not provide" (Larry Crabb, *Connecting*, p. 92).

"Thoughtfully aware Christians, however, neither naïve nor obsessed, know that the enemy must be identified and identified carefully. The disguise must be ripped away, the horror of the enemy's ugliness and the pain he creates must be seen, not to understand the ugliness, not to endlessly study the pain, but to shoot the enemy...We are at war, the enemy within is the flesh, and he wants to ruin our relationships and thwart God's plan, If we don't hate the enemy, we'll hate something or someone else" (Larry Crabb, *Connecting*, p. 91).

	Fallen Structure	Godly Structure
	Problems in Living	Fruitful Living
5 th Floor	Here's How	Here's How
4 th Floor	I Will Survive	I Will Obey
3 rd Floor	I Hate Me	I Judge Me
2 nd Floor	I Hate You	I Accept You
1 st Floor	I Need You	I Love You
Foundation	I Doubt God	I Believe God

(Finding God, Larry Crabb, p. 148-149)

How will you survive? Do you run to the pantry instead of the Lord? Do you call a girlfriend? Do you blame others? What are your coping mechanisms? What is holding you up that is not Christ?

Identity – Knowing who you are.

When you know who you are, you should know what to do.

Redefining knowledge – Not the world's knowledge (facts).

Knowledge of a Person – Jesus (John 17:3)

Information does not produce transformation.

In whom or what is your identity?

Girls' Life Group – Jesus' rejection in Nazareth (Luke 4). How was He not devastated by the rejection and murderous rage of those He knew and loved? The very people He had grown up with?

Jesus lived for the bigger story.

Are you living for your little story? The one contained between your birth date and your death date? One of the ways you can know which story you are living for is how you deal with rejection. If it devastates you, you are living for the wrong story.

IV. **We are Kept – (v. 18-20)**

“Within the overall context of 1 John, where the secessionists are now regarded as unbelievers, even antichrists, the sin that leads to death is probably the sin of the secessionists, in particular their denial that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh and that his death is necessary for salvation” (Colin G. Kruse, *The Letters of John*, Logos).

V. **Avoid Counterfeits – (v. 21)**

Within all of us is the struggle Paul described in Romans 7. There is a battle being waged between our flesh and Spirit.

Overcomers obey and they are on the offensive – Daniel did not take a defensive pose. He was looking forward – to the city not made with human hands (Hebrews 11:10). Daniel lived with great impact, yet distinctively as a pilgrim.

A ship does not sink because it is in the water but because the water gets into the ship. Being in the world is not what ruins us, but letting the world get into us.

Compromise is not the answer – compromise is the cancer.” – Paige Benton Brown.
Compromise is Satan’s general strategy.

The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:30-42

The Lawyer – “put Him to the test”

Question – “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus answered with a story. A story that indicts us all. We are incapable of loving God and our neighbor well enough and consistently enough to inherit eternal life.

Who is my neighbor? We do not have a universal brotherhood, but we do have a universal neighborhood.

The religious people saw, but did not feel. They were counterfeits.

“Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. **Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them**, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:35-36).

Luke 10:33-34
The Samaritan:

- Saw
- Felt Compassion
- Came to him
- Bandaged up his wounds
- Poured oil and wine on his wounds
- Put him on his own beast
- Brought him to an inn
- Took care of him
- Paid the inn keeper
- Promised to return

He paid his debt. If the inn keeper had spent more on the wounded man, the man would be enslaved to him. There were no bankruptcy laws. If you owed a debt you were enslaved until the debt was paid.

Archaeologists found a sign from the time of Christ – 1/32 of a denarius a day to stay in a local inn. The Samaritan had paid for him to stay at least a month and cover any additional medical expenses.

Who is the Good Samaritan?