

Know That...

1 John 5:13-21

As committed believers in Christ we should have confidence in our faith!

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life," 1 John 5:13

We KNOW that we can have confidence in our prayer.

"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death." 1 John 5:14-17

- **Therefore prayer is a union between our own will and Christ**

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

We KNOW that we are born again and sustained by God alone.

"We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him." 1 John 5:18

- **Therefore do not to be sustained by anything other than God.**

We KNOW that the world lives in opposition to God.

"We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." 1 John 5:19

- **Therefore live with confidence knowing that Jesus has overcome the world.**

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

We KNOW Jesus the Messiah who is true.

"And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." 1 John 5:20

- **Therefore we must pursue Jesus in order to be in the truth**

Jesus alone should sit on the throne in your life.

"Little children, guard yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21

Digging Deeper:

“While few would actually put it in these terms, faith is now understood as a blind act of will, a decision to believe something that is either independent of reason or that is a simple choice to believe while ignoring the paltry lack of evidence for what is believed. By contrast with this modern misunderstanding, biblically, faith is a power or a skill to act in accordance with the nature of the kingdom of God, a trust in what we have reason to believe is true. Understood in this way, we see that faith is built on reason. We should have good reasons for thinking that Christianity is true before we dedicate ourselves completely to it.”

- J.P. Moreland from *Love Your God With All Your Mind*

I encourage everyone to seek confidence in Jesus. Many of us want confidence the easy way, that is, without doing much. Generally I have found that confidence in what we know about God comes through years of study and careful pursuit of the deeper things in life. I challenge you to push yourself in what you read, think, and talk about when it comes to Christianity. Seek to know Jesus who is the truth; in Him you will find confidence.

Calvary Church has an amazing bookstore full of resources to challenge you and guide you in this pursuit. Swing by the Corner Bookstore today or sometime this week and see what we have!

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. How do you view faith?
(Ex: “Faith is something I have when I don’t have any other reason to believe.” Or, “my faith is based on what I know; it is not something separate from what I know.”)
2. Do you have confidence in your prayers?
3. Does being born again make sense to you? How does it change your standing in this world to know that you are born again?
4. John ends this whole letter with a challenge to put nothing on the throne but Christ alone, to guard ourselves from idols. In what ways can we protect ourselves from idols in our modern day? In what ways can we pursue Jesus and make him our desire in all we do?

Next Steps:

1. **Invite a friend to join you at the next Alpha Course.** Alpha is an 8-week course where you can come explore some of life's big questions over a relaxed time of dinner, learning and group discussion. The Alpha course begins on Wednesdays from September 9 - October 18 at 6:30 - 8:30pm in the Lobby. For more info, contact Matt Doan at mdoan@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/alpha
2. **Come to the Heroic Truth Experience.** Heroic Truth is an 2-day intergenerational event, here at Calvary on September 11 + 12, designed to equip youth (6th grade and up) and adults (parents, pastors, youth and children’s workers, Christian educators) with a Christian apologetic. Learn more and register at calvarylife.org/heroictruth
3. **Attend the Discover Jesus class beginning in November.** In this class, you will journey through the foundational elements of following Jesus. If you’re a new follower of Jesus, or want to become more grounded in the basics of Christianity, this is perfect for you! The class will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 from November 11, 2015 through January 20, 2016 in the Lobby. Learn more at calvarylife.org/discover