

That You May Know — 1 John 5:13-21

John concludes this letter by kind of restating his reason for writing and summarizing the points of the letter. He really drives home the truth that “we know.” We know these truths and they remove our doubts and give us confidence before God as we live for Him in this broken world. It is important that we remind ourselves often of these truths. If we hold to these truths, we will find ourselves experiencing the life that Jesus promised regardless of our current circumstances. Let’s look at a few questions to dig a little deeper.

Discussion questions — *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. We read where John writes “we know” seven times in just this text alone. Christianity is built on certainty from faith in a God who has revealed Himself. How does the fact that “we can know” help us when we may doubt or when we may be experiencing hard times? How do you respond when you hear that Christians have doubts? What should be our response when we have doubts? Discuss from this text the different mentions of “we know.”
2. We can know that we have eternal life in Christ and this life should lead us to assurance that we can come before God with confidence. John begins to share about prayer. What role does prayer play in our assurance? We know that He hears us when we ask according to His will. This is not a genie in a bottle or a command to Siri. How might we pray according to His will? What does this mean? How might we understand His will and promises more clearly (i.e. pray His promises, pray through Scripture, etc.)? Jesus prayed often and we are called to pray without ceasing or always be in a spirit of prayer. How well do you do with this and what hinders you?
3. As believers we do not keep on sinning, and we are protected from the evil one. The evil one does all he can to destroy the work of God through this broken world. God and Satan are not co-equals and God is infinitely greater. However, Satan is a foe who is constantly at work to steal, kill, and destroy. What encouragement comes from knowing that God protects us? Believers have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of His beloved Son. We are called to guard against idols. What idols do you see prominent in the lives of believers today? What are some of your idols? How do we justify them?
4. We know that we continue to sin after we become a believer. It is not the desire of our heart nor a habitual habit that we are good with. How is it that believers can be victorious over sin even if we still commit sin? How might we respond to a brother or sister that is living in sin? How might the thought of the evil one having influence over the world impact your thoughts towards people in sin? How does this impact the way we view others?

5. Who is someone today that you can pray for that needs the rescue of Jesus or is a believer who is walking in the wrong direction?