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August 17, 2003

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**God Wants the Best For You**

*I John 3:19-24*

**INTRO:** God wants his children to enjoy their spiritual life. God does not want us to fear; he wants us to have peace (2 Tim. 1:7; John 14:27). "The abundant spiritual life is what God wants us to have (John 10:10). "The birthright of every child of God is peace, tranquility, and calmness of heart" (Vines 141).

What keeps many Christians from having the peace and tranquility of God? A condemning heart (1 John 3:20).

I. Vss. 19-21, BLESSED ASSURANCE

A. Vs. 19. "Hereby we know that we are of the truth."

1. "Hereby" refers to what has preceded.
  - a. "Know" is the Greek word *ginosko* which means to know by experience.
  - b. We know that we are of the truth when we help those in need (vs. 17).
  - c. We know that we are of the truth when we love our brethren (vs. 14).
  - d. We know that we are of the truth when our warm words are matched by warm deeds (vs. 18). Actions speak louder than words.
2. God wants us to have assurance in our hearts.
  - a. "Assure" is the Greek word *peitho* which means "to persuade, to tranquilize, to pacify, to soothe."
  - b. God wants all of His children to have peace and tranquility in their lives.
3. We need to stand before God, now and in the future, with assurance.
  - a. Every day we need to stand in the presence of God. The word "before" in this verse is the Greek word *emprosthen* which means "in the presence of." Daily we need to boldly and with assurance come into the presence of God by prayer. If you are not living close to God you cannot have peace.
  - b. If we live in His presence with assurance, then at the judgment seat of Christ we will not be ashamed.

B. Vs. 20, "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart and knoweth all things."

1. "For if our heart condemn us..."
  - a. "Condemn" is a word that speaks of finding fault with ourselves with our heart blaming us with our heart putting us down.
  - b. When a Christian reads something he shouldn't read or sees something he shouldn't see or does something he shouldn't do, his heart condemns him.
  - c. When a Christian does not do what he should do, like reading the Bible and praying, the heart condemns him for not doing these important things.
2. "God is greater than our heart."
  - a. God is able to forgive us of our sins; He is greater than our condemning heart.
  - b. When we do wrong, we need to plead the blood of Christ. We need to cry for mercy and forgiveness; our God is greater than all of our problems. He is greater than all your problems, he is greater than all your sins.
  - c. When we fail God, He will not fail to forgive us if we go to him in prayer.

- d. You may say, "Preacher I have sinned and my heart is burdened down. What can I do?" Go to God. He is greater than your heart; his mercy and forgiveness is greater than your sins.
3. "God...knoweth all things."
    - a. God knows every thing. We call this the omniscience of God. God knows your heart. He knows your plans. He knows where you've been and where you are going. The eyes of God see it all(Psalm 139:7-12).
    - b. God knows if you are right with Him or not. He knows whether you are truly a Christian or a hypocrite. "God knoweth all things."
    - c. When you come to God for forgiveness, God knows the sincerity of your accusing heart.
- C. Vs. 21, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God."
1. "If our heart condemn us not..."
    - a. If we have no unconfessed sin in our lives, if there is nothing between our heart and Saviour, then our heart does not condemn us.
    - b. When our heart is not condemning us, when we are in fellowship with God, we experience the peace and tranquility that God intends for His children.
  2. If our heart is not blaming us, putting us down, accusing and condemning us,"then have we confidence toward God."
    - a. When we are right with God, then we have freedom in prayer. The word confidence is the Greek word *parresia* which means,"freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech, cheerful courage, fearless confidence, boldness and assurance."
    - b. When our heart is right, we can look up to God in confidence. The word toward is the Greek word *pros* which can be defined as "facing toward, face to face, facing." When we are right with God, we enjoy the freedom of facing God the Father with boldness. Paul said that he could face God and man because he had a clear conscience (Acts 24:16).
  3. When our hearts condemn us, we need to go to God who is greater than our sins and ask for mercy and forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

## II. Vss. 22-24, THE KEY TO ANSWERED PRAYER.

- A. Vs. 22, When we are right with God, when we have confidence in prayer, we can expect our prayers to be answered.
1. Prayer is asking God for specific needs.
    - a. God wants us to look to Him in prayer, He wants us to ask Him for our needs. James says, "ye have not, because ye ask not."
    - b. We need to make our requests known to God. We need to ask Him for what we stand in need of (Matt. 7:7,8).
  2. The conditions of answered prayer are given: "because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing to God."
    - a. "When your life is pleasing to God, you can expect Him to hear and answer your prayer" (McGee 798).
    - b. To get our prayers answered, we must be in the habit of keeping God's commandments.
      - 1.) Some folks do right for a day or a week or even a month and expect to get things from God. To have our prayers answered we must continuously keep His commandments.
      - 2.) We will not keep His commandments if we do not study the Word of God and learn the ways of God.
    - c. To get our prayers answered, we must live for God. We must be habitually doing those things that are pleasing to His penetrating gaze.
      - 1.) The believer is to do the things that delight God.
      - 2.) Jesus did those things that pleased God the Father (John 8:29). We are to do those things that please God.
      - 3.) If you are rebellious to the ways of God, then don't expect to get your prayers answered. If what you hear, see, and do are not pleasing to God then don't expect to get your prayers answered.
    - d. What a blessing it is to be right with God, to be on speaking terms with Him, to get our prayers answered.
- B. Vs. 23, By believing in Jesus Christ, we are saved. After salvation, we are to believe all that the Bible tells us about Jesus. We are to grow in our knowledge of Him. We are to learn His attributes and characteristics.
1. We are to learn all the Bible teaches about Christ because the way we live depends on the way we think. The way the Christian thinks is to be molded by the Bible and faith.
  2. We have no right to say we know Christ if we do not love one another. We are to enjoy fellowship with God and with the brethren.
- C. Vs. 24, W.E. Vine says, "He that keepeth' describes what is to be the characteristic habit of the believer" (68).
1. The believer is to abide in the things of God. We are to live in such a way that God settles down and feels at home in our lives (Eph. 3:16-17).
  2. We can know that we are saved. We can enjoy eternal security because of the Holy Spirit who lives in the life of the Christian. When a person is saved, the Holy Spirit comes to live in his life (Rom. 8:9). The Holy Spirit, in a wonderful way, lets you know that you are saved.

**CONCLUSION:** God wants every believer to enjoy a clean heart.