

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard
Elliott Baptist Church
October 12, 2003

I've Got Confidence

I John 5:16-17

INTRO: I've got confidence in God, confidence in His Word, confidence that: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil 4:13). I have confidence because, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (4:4). I have confidence because faith is the victory as I John 5:4 says: "and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Confidence is a receiving theme in I John:

- I. Confidence in Christ's return (2:28).
- II. Confidence when our heart condemns us not (3:21).
- III. Confidence that salvation is eternal (5:13).
- IV. Confidence in prayer (5:14).

I. VS 13, CONFIDENT POSSESSION OF ETERNAL LIFE

- A. This verse has been called "the text of the whole Epistle."
 1. This verse states the purpose of the whole Epistle.
 2. This verse brings to mind what John said about the purpose of the Gospel of John (Jn 20:21).
- B. "That ye may know that ye have eternal life..."
 1. "Assurance is the privilege and birthright of every regenerated man..... One need not grope in the dark about his relationship to God. Every Christian may know and should know that he has eternal life" (Conner 178).
 2. Who can have this assurance? Only those who have a right to it; only those who believe in Christ alone.
 - a) Acts 16:31 "....Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...."
 - b) John 3:18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned...."
 - c) John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life...."
 - d) Jesus said: "....He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."
- C. Do you believe God? Do you believe the record He gave? Do you believe on His Son who died, was buried, and rose again?
 1. This is what John wants you to know. If you have the Son, you have eternal life (Vs 12).
 2. "Blessed assurance Jesus is mine....."

II. VSS 14-15, CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

- A. Vs 14, The word "confidence" is the Greek word *parresia* which means "cheerful courage, boldness, assurance."
 1. It is because of the believer's relationship to Christ that he can have boldness toward God.
 - a) Because of the shed blood of Calvary, we can boldly approach the throne of God (Heb 10:19-22).
 - b) When we have troubles and trials, we can go to the throne of God (Heb 4:16).
 - c) Lost folks are not children of God and cannot boldly approach God (Eph 2:12).

2. The indwelling Holy Spirit allows us to have boldness at the throne of God (Eph 2:18).
 - a) Even when we do not know what to say in prayer, when we struggle to pray, the Holy Spirit is there to help us before the throne of God (Rom 8:26-27).
 - b) Spurgeon said: "Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused" (Harvey 91).
 3. We need to pray boldly because we are in a spiritual battle. We need to be prayer warriors (II Cor 10:4-5).
 4. Stay in fellowship with God, and He will hear us.
 - a) "He heareth us." God is attentive to the needs and cries of His children.
 - b) The one limitation to answered prayer is praying "according to his will."
- B. Vs 15, "We know that we have."
1. If we know that He hears our request that are in line with verse 14, we already have what we request according to His will.
 - a) God says in Jeremiah 33:3: "Call unto me and I will answer thee...."
 - b) Isaiah 65:24 says: "Before they call, I will answer."
 2. Because prayer is asking, praying is definite. It should be specific:
 - a) We are to call out specific names of specific lost people in prayer.

- b) We are to pray for our needs specifically and expect an answer.
 - c) Claim scripture in prayer.
 - d) Always pray for God's will to be done.
3. Jack Taylor points out that God answers our prayer in four ways: "Sometimes God's answers to prayer are direct. Sometimes God's answers are different. Sometimes God's answers are delayed. Sometimes God's answers are denials" (155).
- 4.

III. VS 16-17, CONFIDENCE AS WE INTERCEDE FOR OTHERS

- A. Vs 16, One of the highest privileges in the Christian life is to pray for others. One of the greatest responsibilities in the Christian life is to pray for others (Gal 6:1-2).
- 1. The "brother" in this verse is clearly a reference to another Christian.
 - 2. "He shall ask" is a reference to prayer.
 - 3. "A sin which is not unto death....."
 - a) A sin that is not deadly.
 - b) "Death" here means physical death. It has no reference to spiritual death.
 - c) We can pray, and God can answer and save a brother if it is not a sin unto physical death (James 5:19-20).
 - 4. "There is a sin unto death...."
 - a) There is a sin that believers can commit that will cause their heavenly Father to call them home. He will remove them from this physical life because of the disgrace they have become.
 - b) In the Old Testament, Moses died because he struck the rock in the wilderness twice spoiling the type of Christ who died once for all (I Cor 10:4; Num 20:12).
 - c) In the New Testament, we have the example of Ananias and Sapphira who were guilty of lying to the church (Acts 5:1-11).
 - d) This "sin unto death," is not the unpardonable sin because those spoken of are children of God.
 - 5. Every believer is capable of committing the sin unto physical death.
 - a) The sin unto death is not the same for everyone. God knows what it is for you.
 - b) We all need to stay close to God, to stay in fellowship and avoid evil.
 - 6. There is a limitation to intercession.
- B. Vs 17, We have all sinned. Sin is exceedingly sinful and should be seen as such.
- 1. Everyone alive today has sinned. All believers alive today have sinned, but we have not sinned the sin unto death or else we would be not here.
 - 2. If God took home every believer who sinned, none would be alive.
 - 3. There is a sin not unto death– keep praying one for another.

CONCLUSION: We are to have confidence in salvation and in prayer.