

1 John 019

10/24/21

Prayer and Intercession

1 John 5:14

I. Introduction:

A. Close of John's Letter

- *At the close of John's letter he instructs concerning prayer & intercession for others.*

1. – We are supposed to pray.

- a. It's natural part of the Christian new nature to seek communion w/ Heavenly Father
- b. It's natural for Christians to spend time speaking w/ God & listening to the H. S. through His word. There is the clear expectation from Jesus that those who are saved will pray. (**Matthew 6:5-7, &9**)

2. – We are supposed to pray for others.

- a. Just as it's expected we will pray, it's expected we will make intercession for others.

- b. Praying for others is a wonderful privilege & incredible responsibility. (**1Tim.2:1-4**)

II. Confidence In Prayer (1 John 5:14-15)

A. Confidence

1. John states we can pray with confidence. Some translations use the word **assurance.**"
2. The word "**confidence**" is the Greek word *parresia* which initially meant "**freedom to speak boldly**" & today means "**freedom of speech.**"
3. In other words, we have freedom of speech when we come before God the Father.
4. Source of This Confidence: Our confidence is because we are "**in Him.**"
5. Those who're saved are in Christ. Our redeemed state in Jesus gives us direct access to the Father & we can come boldly to the throne of grace. (**Hebrews 4:14**)
6. In Jesus we can instantly approach the throne of heaven 24/7.
7. Application: If you're saved this morning, you can pray with confidence & assurance.

B. Key to Effective Prayer

1. John tells us to pray effectively, pray according to God's will. (**1 John 5:14**)
2. God always answers prayer that is in accord with His will.
3. There are two ways to know God's will and thus how to pray.
 - (1) – Read the Bible
 - a. The Bible is fully reveals God's will for man & how to live out our lives.
 - b. Illustration:Marriage: According to Bible, God ordained marriage to be between 1 man& 1 woman for life. Prayer concerning marriage must be in accord w/God's will
 - (2) – Ask God
 - a. Some decisions in life aren't clearly spelled out in the Bible. For those issues we should pray asking Him His will before we act.
 - b. Because we're His children, God will make the way clear if we ask & wait on Him.

C. Our Prayers are Heard (1 John 5:15)

1. John gives a blessed promise concerning prayer which is our prayers are always heard.
2. Because we are in Jesus the Father always hears our prayers.
3. God's answers to our prayers come in three forms: Yes, No and Wait
4. God answers the prayers of His children every time.

D. Prayers of the Lost

1. This passage is about the prayers of the saints. They have an audience with the Father any time, all the time. But what about those who are lost?
2. The will of God for the lost is that they be saved. **(1 Timothy 2:4?)**
3. Jesus will advocate for anyone who will call upon His name. **(Romans 10:13)**
4. 1 effective prayer of the lost is to confess their sin & by faith ask Jesus to save them.
5. The sin of lost people stands between them & God preventing fellowship with God.
6. The only prayer a lost person has is a prayer of salvation.

III. Prayer of Intercession (1 John 5:16-17)

A. Specific Kind of Prayer

1. John in speaking about effective prayer told the keys to effective prayer.
 - a. Pray in the will of God
 - b. God hears us when we pray, so pray.
2. Now he speaks of an intercessory prayer, praying for a brother in Christ who is in sin.

B. Sin Unto Death

1. To understand John, we need to understand difference between a sin & a sin unto death.
2. John speaks of two kinds of sin.
 - a. The sin for which we're to pray for our errant brother in Christ isn't a sin unto death.
 - b. Then there is sin unto death for which John does not encourage us to pray over.
3. There is no sin God will not forgive if we confess and ask Him.
4. Understanding this sin unto death has to do specifically with confessing and asking.
5. Divergent Paths: We all come into the world as sinners, born with Adamic sin nature.
6. There 2 paths person can take as sinner which are easily defined as sin & sin unto death
 - (1) – Sin with a conscience
 - a. Most people, even lost, have a conscience & are convicted when they do wrong.
 - b. This conviction is even more true for the child of God, those who are saved.
 - c. Christian conviction over sin is amplified because of having the H. S. living in us.
 - d. The new man hates sin and therefore we are even more sorry when we sin.
 - e. For this group of Christians sin is the exception to the rule.
 - (2) – Sin with no conscience
 - a. There is a second group of people for whom sin is the standard of life.
 - b. This group has seared conscience & is made up of people who sin with no qualms.
 - c. This kind of sinner has embraced sin for so long they have no more conviction.
 - d. They maliciously lie, cheat & are sexually perverse with no conviction.
 - e. Sin unto death isn't a single sin, but rather a state of being a reprobate.
 - f. This group represents those God turns over to their sin which will destroy them.

C. How to Pray

1. We pray for brothers & sisters in Christ who've been overcome by sin, but confess & ask God to forgive them. We pray for them and ourselves not to be overcome by sin.
2. Jesus gave us a model prayer. **(Matthew 6:9b-13)**
3. We should pray for one another to be delivered from sin.
4. There is forgiveness for all who will call upon the name of Jesus.

5. Reprobates John doesn't encourage us to pray for reprobates who've been turned over to their sin. There's no conviction in their hearts. There's no desire for forgiveness of sin.
6. Sin has become the purpose of their life.