

First John 5:13-17
Focus on Prayer (cf. 3:22-23)

- 1) Purpose of the book—5:13 ¹³ *These things* (the whole letter) *I have written to you^{pl} who are characterized by trusting* [pres. act. ptc. πιστεύω] *in [εἰς] the name of the Son of God.* (cf. John 1:12), (His deity, humanity, virgin conception, sinless life, substitutionary death, resurrection, physical ascension)
 - a) *that [ἵνα] you^{pl} may know* [pf. act. subj. εἰδῶ] *that [ὅτι] you^{pl} have* [pres. act. ind. ἔχω] *eternal life,*
 - i) Not merely the act of knowing, but what they may know.
 - ii) Cf. John 20:30-31
 - b) *and that you^{pl} may be trusting* [pres. act. subj. πιστεύω] *in [εἰς] the name of the Son of God.*
- 2) Prayer to the Father—5:14-15
 - a) Confidence—¹⁴ *And this is the confidence* [παρρησία] *that we have* [pres. act. ind. ἔχω] *toward [πρός] Him, that [ὅτι], ... He hears* (listens favorably) [pres. act. ind. ἀκούω] *us.*
 - b) Condition—*if [εἰάν, 3rd class condition] we ask* [pres. mid. subj. αἰτέω] *anything according to His will* [θέλημα],
 - i) i.e. “Whenever we ask anything according to His will, then He hears us.”
 - ii) We are to ask for things that are consistent with God’s revealed will.
 - c) Conclusion—¹⁵ *And if [εἰάν, as a rare 1st class condition] we know* [pf. act. ind. εἰδῶ] *that [ὅτι] He hears* [pres. act. ind. ἀκούω] *us, whatever [εἰάν] we ask* [pres. mid. subj. αἰτέω],
 - i) *we know* [pf. act. ind. εἰδῶ] *that [ὅτι] we have* [pres. act. ind. ἔχω] *the requests* [αἴτημα] *we have asked* [pf. act. ind. αἰτέω] *from [παρά] Him.*
- 3) A specific “for instance” of confidence in prayer—5:16-17
 - a) The situation—5:16 ¹⁶ *If [εἰάν, 3rd class condition] anyone sees* [aor. act. subj. ὁράω] *his brother sinning* [pres. act. ptc. ἀμαρτάνω] *a sin [ἀμαρτία] **not** unto [πρός] death, ...*
 - i) Cf. 3:4-10 & 5:18 and the habit of sinning
 - ii) Cf. the use of “brother”—2:9, 10, 11; 3:10, 12, 14, 15, 17; 4:20, 21; 5:16
 - iii) See a parallel thought in Romans 10:1
 - b) What should he do? *he* (the observer) *should ask* [fut. act. ind. αἰτέω] ...
 - i) *and He* (God) *will give* [fut. act. ind. δίδωμι] *for him life to the ones who are sinning* [pres. act. ptc. ἀμαρτάνω] ***not** unto [πρός] death.*
 - (1) Prayer for repentance in the heart of the one who is sinning
 - (2) “Life” in 1st John is usually in reference to eternal life; cf. John 5:24
 - c) Positively—*There is a sin [ἀμαρτία] unto [πρός] death.* (cf. John 8:24)
 - i) *I am not saying that [ἵνα] he should ask/pray* [aor. act. subj. ἐρωτάω] *concerning [περί] that [ἐκεῖνος] (sin unto death).*
 - (1) Prayer after the death of the sinning one is too late. Prayer for the dead is contrary to God’s will.
 - ii) ¹⁷ *Each unrighteousness [ἀδικία] is sin [ἀμαρτία],*
 - d) Negatively—*and there is a sin [ἀμαρτία] **not** unto [πρός] death.*