



## First John: The Word of Life Word of His Name

### **Stand and Deliver**

John concludes this epistle with an assurance and confidence building message. Through the 'Word of Life' we have an 'understanding' [knowledge] of His truth—now we need to walk in it.

#### **A. The Name of Jesus** *1 John 5:13-17*

1. **His Name:** [:13] His Name is above all names and there is power in that Name. *Eph 1:18-21; Phil 2:9-11*
2. **Our confidence:** [:14] The word for confidence means to deliver something, to stand and speak or do. In other words, to 'stand and deliver.' In context it means to stand on His Name and believe [have faith] in His power.
3. **Our relationship:** [:14-15] The Lordship of Christ is at the heart of this passage. In context, 'my asking' is not manipulating God's will for my benefit rather it is living in His will. See "Do You Want What God Wants" on the back!
  - a. **Why are not all prayers answered?**
    - \* Faith problems *Matt 21:22*
    - \* Lack of patience *Luk 18:1-18*
    - \* Lack of obedience *1 Pet 3:12; Psalm 66:18*
    - \* God's greater wisdom *Luk 27:42; Rom 8:28; 1 Pet 4:19*
    - \* The hidden things of God *Deut 29:29*
4. **A life example:** [:16-17] Next John gives a life example of 'asking' and 'praying in the Name of Jesus.'
  - a. **Sin not unto death:** So what kind of sin is this? This is sin for which forgiveness is possible. That is, sin where forgiveness is sought, God is willing to forgive and give life. *1 John 1:8-10*
  - a. **Sin unto death:** What is 'sin' unto death? This is 'unrepented sin.' John has given many examples in this epistle of those who have rejected the Gospel message, suffer from chronic disobedience to God's commands and have a persistent lack of love for others. John seems to say that we can choose to pray for this person or not. If it's a choice—I would choose to pray for them.

#### **B. Walking in The Name of Jesus** *1 John 5:18-21*

1. **We know:** Seven times in this passage and four times in verses 18-20 John uses the word 'know.' His emphasis is that 'we CAN know' and experience the things of God.
2. **We walk:** Since we are born of God we:
  - a. **Stand against sin** [:18]
  - b. **Are IN the world but NOT of the world** [:19]
  - c. **Have an 'understanding' of truth and error from God**
  - d. **Have eternal life**
3. **We stay away from:** The term 'keeps himself' in verse :18 is almost identical to 'keep yourselves' in verse :21. We must choose NOT to make an idol out of anything. An idol is anything that takes the place of Jesus in my life.

#### 1 John 5:13-21 (NKJV)

**:13** These things I have written to you who believe in the **name of the Son of God**, that you may **know** that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

**:14** Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

**:15** And if we **know** that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**:16** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and **He** will give **him** life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

**:17** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

**:18** We **know** that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

**:19** We **know** that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

**:20** And we **know** that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may **know** Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

**:21** Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

## Our Assurance from 1 John

**Pillar One: Faith**—“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).

- A. Specific Faith (4:9–10; John 3:16)
- B. Spoken Faith (4:15)
- C. Sustained Faith (5:1, 10–13).

**Pillar Two: Love**—“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him” (1 John 4:16–17).

- A. Sacrificial Love (3:16)
- B. Compassionate Love (3:17)
- C. Love in Action (3:18)

**Pillar Three: Obedience**—“We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands” (1 John 2:3).

- A. The Command (3:23)
- B. The Faith in Christ (3:23)
- C. Love One Another (3:24)

**Pillar Four: Witness** (of the spirits)—“... And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth” (1 John 5:6).

- A. The Human Spirit (3:21)
- B. The Holy Spirit (3:24; Rom. 8:16)

## Do You Want What God Wants?

The will of God has been a subject of mixed emotions for many followers of Christ. For one thing, we tend to think that whatever we want, God will not, and we fear that whatever God wants will be the very thing we don't. However, a study of 1 John and other scriptures will confirm that the following is more true to the essence of God's will for our lives:

1. God's will is liberating and positive (1 John 2:17; 3:23).
2. God's will may take us out of our comfort zones (loving people who are hard to like, Matt. 5:43–44).
3. God's will is more relational than directional (faith in Christ; loving others, Matt. 22:37–39).
4. God's will is more about character than career (1 John 3:2–3).
5. God's will for our lives, in one word: Jesus! (1 John 3:23).