And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1 John 5:14-15

INTRODUCTION
A DEADLY TRESPASS **5:14-17**

- we have learned some wonderful things in John's first epistle...**chapter five** in particular

Jesus is God	**5:6-10**
we are His children	**5:11-13**

- those are great *theological* truths, but most people don't live in a theological reality

  what about the practical side of life?

  does God care about what's happening to me?

  in His earthly ministry, John saw Jesus help those in need...healing, feeding, etc.

  now, John tells us Jesus helps us today from His place in Heaven

- in particular, John reminds us to have a **VIBRANT** prayer life because of our personal relationship with Christ

  John 13:23
  Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

  do you enjoy this kind of intimacy with Christ?

1. BOLDNESS IN PRAYER verses 14-15

GOD HEARS US verse 14

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

once again, John uses the word *confidence*

2:28 we may have confidence

4:17 we may have boldness

= freedom to speak

what a bold thing for a person, once a poor, lost sinner, condemned to die under the judgment of God, to dare to come by the precious blood of Christ into the presence of the infinite, holy God

Hebrews 4:16 let us come boldly

Hebrews 13:6 so that we may boldly say

and yet, how *anemic* is our prayer life?

the Arecibo Message...1974...25,000 light years

vain repetitions? **Matthew 6:7**

1 Kings 19:13-14 Elijah's pity party

NOTE: compare our prayers to 'copy and paste' social media posts

GOD HEEDS US verse 15

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

it is an awesome thought to know the Creator God of Heaven not only *hears* our prayers, but is *intimately concerned* with our needs and wants to answer our prayers

...and He answers every prayer

the key is ...ask any thing according to his will

IS YOUR PRAYER IN AGREEMENT WITH THE WORD?

John 15:7
If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

ARE YOU LIVING IN HIS WILL?

Psalm 66:18
If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

John 9:31
...if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Luke 11:9-13
And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

2. BROTHERS IN PERIL verses 16-17

If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

This is a continuation of John's thoughts on prayer. Here, however, he gives us a particular example of one prayer we can see answered by God

EXAMPLES OF DEADLY SIN

under the Old Testament law, capital punishment was demanded in cases of murder, idolatry, witchcraft, homosexuality, incest, and blasphemy

Nadab & Abihu	Leviticus 10:1-2
Korah	Numbers 16:31-34
Achan	Joshua 7
Uzzah	2 Samuel 6:1-7
Ananias & Sapphira	Acts 5
those who mock...	1 Cor 11:28-30

Ecclesiastes 7:17
Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

Proverbs 10:27
The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Proverbs 19:16
He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall die.

Proverbs 29:1
He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Ephesians 6:1-3
Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

likewise, the Bible teaches that God disciplines His children and those who are not disciplined do not belong to Him

☞ **Hebrews 12:5-8**

according to Hebrews 12:10, the purpose of this chastening is *for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness*.

> God, in His mercy, is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness **1 John 1:9**

THE EARNEST OF SINCERE PRAYER

John encourages us to pray for those we know to be living in sin

If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and [God] shall give him life for them that sin not unto death.

> BTW...if any SEE his brother
>
> this eliminates the gossip factor
>
> there is no speculation or rumor
>
> this does not allow us to stand in judgment over our brother

do we care enough to pray for them?

> see **1 John 4:7, 20-21**

compare with Paul's attitude at Corinth

☞ **1 Corinthians 5:1-7**

when done correctly, we have the assurance God will give us the answer to our prayer...the restored life of our brother in Christ

and just in case any would think they had nothing to fear here, John point out to us:

All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

all unrighteousness is sin...there is no gray area here

Ephesians 4:30 and grieve not the Holy Spirit…

NOTE: in case you have any doubt about your actions and wonder if they are unrighteous, take the following test:

Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life?

1 Corinthians 6:12

Am I edifying myself or others?

1 Corinthians 10:23

Can I ask God to bless it in good conscience?

Colossians 3:17

If Christ returned at this very moment, would I be ashamed to meet Him?

1 Corinthians 1:8

Would it cause another brother to stumble?

Romans 14:13-15

Would it cause a lost person to reject the gospel?

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

Does my conscience condemn me?

1 Peter 3:16