

1st John Lesson 19 – Eternal Life & Answered Prayer

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

"These things have I written unto you ... you that believe [trust in, cling to, rely on] ... on the name of the Son of God [the name denoting the person, the subject of this epistle, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself] ... that "you" may KNOW that you have eternal life ... and that you may continue to believe [trust in, cling to, rely on] on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Everything the apostle John has written in this epistle is so you can ... know you have eternal life, and so that you will continue believing. John does not want them to be like those who have "gone out from us" because they no longer "trust in, cling to, and rely on" the teachings of Jesus Christ.

How do you know you [John is writing so that "you" may know] have eternal life? Jesus gave us the purest definition:

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

How do you know that you know Him? What has John written in this epistle about knowing Him?

1 John 2:3-4 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

These commandments of Jesus are from three sources;

1 - The new nature that always points toward righteousness.

If you never bow the knee to Christ in you, the new nature, you will never depart from iniquity. If you never depart from iniquity, Jesus will say "I never knew you, depart from me ye that work iniquity." [Mat 7:23]

Many Christians today are way too nonchalant regarding the promptings that come from the new nature. To say no to those promptings is to say no to Christ in you. To say no to

those promptings is to yield to the flesh rather than Christ in you. You have been bought with a price. In truth, you are owned and have no right to deny the Lord by refusing the leadership in righteousness coming from "Christ in you" ... the new nature. If you deny His leadership from within ... How is He your Lord? God's purpose is that we "walk as He walked."

2 - The things Jesus said while on earth.

The early disciples were taught the sayings of Jesus by the mouths of the apostles. They taught what Jesus taught. They had no written Bible, but they had the sayings of Jesus ... through the oral teachings of the apostles, and through the letters they received from them. We have no excuse in America. Most households have many Bibles. You have ALL THE SAYINGS of Jesus while on earth in printed form, on your telephone, on your computer, on your tablet, etc.

Remember ... the Holy Spirit not only shows you things to come, He also brings to your remembrance all things that the Lord said while on earth. You greatly assist Him in this by assimilating all the books of the New Testament ... that equips your spirit for day and night meditation.

3 - The personal instructions from His mind to your mind by way of the Holy Spirit.

Your blueprint. It is not your job to bring those things to come to pass, but it is your responsibility to spend enough quality, one on one time, with the Holy Spirit so that your mind is able to receive those step by step instructions. I am talking about your pruning, your calling in the body of Christ, your personal instructions. Examples: Nathan – give up dream of rock and roll for Jesus, move to Tulsa, give up coffee for a season, etc. Gary - stop driving trucks, go full time, make teachings available free like water, etc.

1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

The foundation of all the commandments is the love of God. We are to love others the way Jesus loved us. Jesus told the truth, in love, even if people wanted to kill Him for it. He told the Pharisees they were of their father the devil. He told them they would die in their sins unless they believed Jesus is Who He says He is. They were embarrassed and offended at His sayings to the point they planned how to kill Him. Jesus knew that, but He never compromised the truth in order to "appease" them or to "compromise" with them, or to "make them look better" in the eyes of the people.

This same Jesus, who is love, will tell every person who claims to be a Christian but refuses to depart from iniquity ... " **I never knew you, depart from Me ye that work iniquity.**" [Mat 7:23] He laid down His life to set them free from sin, yet they loved the sin more than they loved Him.

Love is the fulfilling of the law:

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet, and all the other commandments ... love keeps them all because love works no ill to his neighbor.

Remember ... it is the love of God, not human love. God's love did not enable the Prodigal to continue in his sin. God's love did not hurry to raise Lazarus based on the emotions of Lazarus' sisters, but waited on the Father's leadership instead. God's love does what human love cannot. Jesus is the love of God with legs. God sent His love, packaged in human form, so we could see the love of God in action. God's love is manifested in this passage:

Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (19) To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Back to our verse in this lesson;

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

What else has John already written so that ye may know that ye have eternal life? I have put in the phrase that reveals what the Greek tense of the verbs actually mean ... an ongoing, habitual, lifestyle of ...

1 John 3:7-10 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth [habitually lives a lifestyle of] righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. (8) He that committeth [habitually lives a lifestyle of] sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. (9) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit

[habitually live a lifestyle of] sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot [habitually live a lifestyle of] sin, because he is born of God. (10) In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Luke 6:43-44 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (44) For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

We are not talking about perfection here, but we are talking about the fruit your life is producing. If you say you are a Christian, a good tree tapped into the life of Christ, yet the fruit of your life is that you have a lifestyle of habitual fornication, or drug abuse, or drunkenness, or all of those things and more ... you are still a child of the devil. [Review Lesson 9 – The Children Of God & The Children Of The Devil]

If your fruit is righteousness, then you are a good tree, and the life of Christ flowing through you is producing holiness on your limbs. More and more, progressively, the fruit of the Spirit is manifested and maturing in your life.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

We seldom include the next verse but in the context of 1st John saying he wants us to "know that we have eternal life" let us look at the next verse;

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

There is no negotiating with the flesh (although it constantly wants to negotiate a compromise with you). The flesh is not to be compromised with. The flesh is to be crucified. Death is the only scriptural position for the flesh. Jesus said,

Luke 9:23 And he said to *them all*, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

The Holy Spirit said to me, "*One of you will be on the cross every day. Either your spirit or your flesh will be on the cross. Which one is your choice.*"

John wants nobody deceived. It is easy to distinguish between an apple tree and a tree

that only produces thorns. In the same way, it is not that hard to look at the fruit of your life and see if you are living a godly life or a lifestyle of sin. [Not perfection ... review Lesson 9 again regarding "deal breaker" habitual sins.] But if the overall fruit of your life is habitual sin, a lifestyle of sin ... you are a child of the devil. The solution is to repent and believe the gospel today. Surrender to Jesus, confess your sins and repent of them. Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Call on His name and He will come into you and begin leading you in the paths of righteousness. As you yield to His nature within you, you will put the flesh on the cross where it belongs. The fruit of your life will change because you have become a good tree that produces good fruit.

Always remember ... as a born again child of God, you are not like the man in Romans chapter seven who had been given the law but had no capacity to keep it. That is man BEFORE the new birth. When you truly receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you become a new creature. You have that same ETERNAL LIFE in you that Jesus has in Him. You ARE able to walk free from sin because that ETERNAL LIFE empowers you to do it.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

That is the gospel. Repent and believe the gospel. Repent of sin, put off the old man, and walk in newness of life as a child of God.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (15) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

John is an excellent teacher. Each thought is built on what He has already established earlier in the epistle. Let's look at what John wrote earlier about having "confidence" when it comes to answered prayer;

1 John 3:21-22 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God. (22) And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

[I recommend you review lesson 10 – If Our Heart Condemn Us Not]. Why does your heart not condemn you? Because you are living righteously by keeping His commandments and doing those things that are pleasing in His sight. You know you are in good standing with Him, walking in fellowship with Him, and that gives you confidence that when you ask for something in prayer, you will receive of Him.

Keep this real. You are in a family, not a religion. Every child knows when he has been disobedient to his parents and doing opposite of what the parents say to do. Every child knows that is NOT the time to ask for ice cream. Good parents love to give good things to their children. But no good parent rewards disobedience.

"If you ask anything according to His will" ... Jesus taught us about prayer,

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

In the early days of being a Christian, it seemed most of the teaching on this verse focused on "**my**" desires. Some of those messages really tickled my flesh. *"What do you DESIRE? A bigger house? A new car? Two new cars? God wants to meet your every DESIRE."* Those teachings REALLY appealed to my flesh in the early days. There is some truth in those teachings because God is a Father and Fathers PROVIDE. Fathers enjoy buying their children toys when they are small. My earthly father bought me a red toy fire truck when I was about five years old. At age 71, I still remember it. But I'm not sure O. R. Carpenter would have been pleased if I had asked him to buy me a new toy firetruck when I was thirty years old! Our desires are supposed to change as we mature.

John is remembering more about what Jesus taught concerning getting our prayers answered,

John 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Here Jesus makes answered prayer very "conditional" by using the word "IF." You must "abide in Him" and "His words must abide in you." Abiding in Him is daily trusting in, clinging to, and relying upon Christ. It is walking in fellowship with Him by walking in the light as the child of God you are. Jesus is your first love and everything else in life is secondary to Him. His words must also LIVE in you. The apostle John keeps repeating this theme all through the letter by saying, "we are to keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

In plain language that means, "Doing what He says." Remember, Jesus asked why do you "say" He is your Lord if you are not willing to "do" what He says? By definition ... "You are my Lord" means ... I do what you say. You are Lord ... I am not. Your will be done, not mine. Breaking down what Jesus taught in John 15:7-8,

1. If you walk in fellowship with Him by living a life pleasing in His sight,
2. And you not only hear His commandments, but you are a doer of them,
3. THEN you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.

If you are like that, in fellowship with Him, living a clean and holy life and always striving to hear and do what He says ... YOUR WILL AND HIS WILL BECOME ONE. This is how you become HIS DISCIPLE. As His disciple, you ask for the same kinds of things He asks for ... because you have the same heart and mind. You have been conformed to Him, not only in a walk of righteousness, but in your heart motivations and desires. You want what He wants.

But to live a life where you hardly think of Him and His Word at all, where you never seriously seek His will about anything, and you are just living your life however you want ... and especially if you are knowingly living a lifestyle of blatant sin ... your own heart will condemn you and it will be REALLY HARD to have confidence when you approach Him in prayer.

The message of John is not legalism and rule keeping. The message is ... that eternal life that we first saw in Jesus ... by the grace of God ... is now in us. Now we are sons of God and we are to walk like the sons of God we are. Just BE whom God has already made you to be. God is your Father. He has made you His son. Just walk as the son of God you really are. As you do that, you are always pleasing Him. As you talk and walk like that, you are sounding more and more like our prototype Jesus,

John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

"The Father hath not left me alone" = "We are walking together" = "I am always in fellowship with the Father" ... John wrote earlier,

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

John is saying (much like Jesus), "The Father and the Son have not left me alone" = "We are walking together" = "I am always in fellowship with the Father and the Son" ... why? ... "because I keep His commandments" = "I do always those things that please the Father and the Son." John is writing this letter so you can say, "I am part of the family of God. I do what sons of God do. I am a child of light and I walk as a child of light. It is who I am, and it is how the fruit is manifested on my limbs. I am not 'trying' to produce

righteousness any more than an apple tree 'tries' to produce apples. My fruit is righteousness because I am a son of God."

I will add, however, that your flesh is not yet born of God. It still has lust in it that is contrary, opposite, to your new nature. You do have to use effort and discipline to keep it under. That war with the flesh will never be over until you receive your glorified body. Even the apostle Paul said,

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.
[Greek - castaway = reprobate]

Back to 1st John;

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (15) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Here is that word "confidence" again. If our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward Him. John has been building on that same truth again now leading up to answered prayer. "Confidence and "Faith" are closely related. Faith is so important to answered prayer.

James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (8) A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Jesus always had "confidence" that the Father would hear and answer His prayers. But remember Jesus said, "**I do always those things that please Him.**" John says identically the same thing about us,

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

"If we ask anything according to His will." It is certainly possible to ask for things that are not His will. For example, asking for vengeance on somebody is not His will.

"Vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord. I will repay." [Rom 12:19]

Selfish ambition is not His will. Too often you find the spirit of the world rampant in the church by way of "competition" and "one-upmanship." The apostle James warns about that,

James 4:1-4 From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they not* hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? (2) Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. (3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. (4) Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

One of the things I have so appreciated here at the Prayer Center is the lack of competition between the preachers. Trust me when I say ... that is a rare thing to find, even in church. There have been a few people over the years who have tried to self-exalt themselves, and God is always longsuffering and patient with them, but if they do not humble themselves and just let God exalt them, they eventually leave and move somewhere else.

Before the disciples of Christ were born again, you find that competitive spirit of selfish ambition very much alive in them. In fact, the same John who is writing this epistle, before he became John the apostle, was one of the two brothers who made the request (through their mother) to sit on Jesus' right and left hand in the kingdom,

Matthew 20:20-24 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping *him*, and desiring a certain thing of him. (21) And he said unto her, **What wilt thou?** She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. (22) But Jesus answered and said, **Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?** They say unto him, We are able. (23) And he saith unto them, **Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but *it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.*** (24) And when the ten heard *it*, they were moved with indignation [Definition = resentment] against the two brethren.

Mark's account says they, James and John themselves, made the request. They simply made it through their mother. She may have agreed to ask Jesus because she was ambitious for her sons, but the point is ... selfish ambition was in their heart, just like it is in the heart of most people who have the spirit of the world still in them.

After the disciples were born again, you can find no trace of selfish ambition in them throughout the New Testament. They became completely focused on serving Christ, not being exalted by Him. They belonged to Christ, no longer to themselves. It is a wonderful thing to live for Christ alone. [Pastor Dave Roberson has a wonderful teaching series on this subject titled: The Cost Of Exaltation]

Back to 1st John,

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (15) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

John is remembering what he heard Jesus teach more than fifty years ago,

John 16:23-24 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you. (24) Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

It is so important that "**in my name**" is mentioned twice in that passage regarding answered prayer. Jesus is the "will of God" with legs. If you want to see the will of the Father, look at Jesus. The key to your needs being met is to always seek first the kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:31-33 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (32) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

When you approach the Father in prayer, you are coming "in the name of Jesus" ... as His representative on earth ... even more ... as His body on earth. When you are coming "in the name of Jesus" and asking anything that is in accordance with the will of God ... you can rest assured that not only will your prayer be heard, but you can have full confidence it will be answered. John gives us a wonderful example of asking "according to His will" and "In His name" in the next verse;

1 John 5:15-16 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. (16) 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.

As a case in point, when John recommends a prayer for us to pray, notice how unselfish it is. John doesn't say ask for a new camel, or for a new robe, or anything along that line. Notice the heart of John is the same as the heart of Jesus. John is concerned about a sheep that is starting to stray. This is a prayer that the Good Shepherd would most certainly approve of. It is a prayer that can be prayed "in the name of Jesus" because it comes from the heart of the Savior.