*Series: The Composition of Confidence – 1 John*

**Confidence in Eternal Life – Having the Son**

*1 John 5:6-21*

**Introduction**

1. John wrote gospel so that those who read it could have eternal life through believing in Jesus (**cf. John 20:30-31**).
2. John wrote his epistle so that those who read it could KNOW they have eternal life, and to exhort them to hold on to it (**cf. 1 John 5:13**).
3. There is a lot the Holy Spirit packed into this epistle to grant confidence to God’s children that they have the hope of eternal life.
4. Ultimately, it has always come down to one overarching condition – **1 John 5:12** – whoever has the Son has confidence that he has life.
5. This reality grants the privilege of prayer to sustain us in this relationship, and the knowledge to keep us pure, and guarded from things which seek to destroy the relationship.
6. Confidence Through Having the Son **(vv. 6-13)**
7. The Great Witness of the Spirit **(vv. 6-9)**
   1. The last thing John wrote spoke to confidence – **(vv. 4-5)** – overcoming the world through faith in Jesus as the Son of God.
      1. This is key to fellowship with God, thus, salvation – **1:1-4** – He reveals spiritual/eternal life because He reveals the Father.
      2. **John 14:6** – way, truth, life – not simply assent to facts, but walking in the way that is revealed by truth to receive the life.
   2. **Why would I put my faith in Him as the Son of God?**
   3. **(v. 6a)** – He came by water and blood.
      1. **Came** – especially in reference to His incarnation, the nature of His coming – **4:2** – in the flesh.
      2. **Water and blood** – witnesses (**v. 7a**) – to Jesus being the incarnate Son of God **(v. 5, 10).**
      3. **Water** – His baptism at the beginning of His ministry – **John 1:29-31; Matthew 3:16-17** – the man John baptized is the Son of God.
      4. **Blood** – His death at the end of His ministry – **John 19:34-35; Mark 15:39; Hebrews 9:14** – the man who was crucified was God’s Son.
   4. (**v. 6b)** – the Spirit bears witness.
      1. Through the apostolic record – **John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32**
   5. ***“For there are three that bear witness… the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.” (v. 7a, 8b)***
      1. **The Spirit’s witness is in tandem with the witness of the water and the blood.**
         1. The water (His baptism) and the blood (His death) are historical events testifying to Jesus being the Son of God.
         2. **The inspired historical record of these events by the Holy Spirit, along with the entire corpus of inspired writing in the New Testament speaks to Jesus being the Son of God.**
      2. This represents a threefold witness – ***“By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.” (2 Corinthians 13:1)***
   6. This is divine testimony from God, and possesses credibility of the highest degree – **(v. 9)**
      1. Receiving witness of men – **2 Corinthians 13:1** – to establish anything.
         1. **John 5:32-35** – John bore witness.
         2. **1 Corinthians 15:6** – many others can and have testified.
         3. The testimony of men is weighed and accepted.
      2. God’s testimony is greater – **John 5:36-40** (miracles, voice at baptism, Scriptures)
         1. His testimony is indeed that of the threefold testimony – **(v. 8b)** – Spirit, water, blood.
   7. There is tremendous evidence that Jesus is God’s Son, and Savior of the world. God has revealed all we need in His written word. He is worthy of our trust and devotion – **John 20:30-31**
8. The Witness in Ourselves **(vv. 10-13)**
   1. **Testimony is a means to an end** – it is meant to convince, to bring one to belief, and action.
   2. **God has supplied insurmountable testimony that demands belief.**
      1. **(v. 10)** – the refusal to believe such unmatched testimony is tantamount to calling God a liar.
   3. **What is the nature of this belief?** – **(v. 10a)** – it is such that one ***“has the witness in himself.”***
      1. I.e. it is not mere acceptance of undeniable fact.
      2. **According to Jesus** – **John 6:53-57, 63, 68-69** – to take Him into ourselves, to consume Him, His character and ways, His words.
      3. **According to Paul** – **Galatians 2:20** – Christ, the Son of God, lives in me.
   4. **The result** – **(vv. 11-12)** – God offers life to the world, but only through His Son.
      1. **Exclusive** – **John 6:68; 14:6** – to deny Him is to deny eternal life.
      2. **John 5:24-27** – the Son has been granted to be the exclusive source of this life by the Father and imparts it by His word.
         1. **Hear His voice/word** – not merely hearing but acting with obedience on what is heard – i.e. obeying.
   5. **John’s whole epistle has been intended to bolster the confidence of God’s children concerning their hope of eternal life – (v. 13) – it serves as an exhortation to continue to possess the Son.**
      1. Walk in the light **(1:7).**
      2. Keep His commandments and walk as He walked (**2:3-6**).
      3. Do not love the world (**2:15-17**).
      4. Hold to the truth (**2:18-27**).
      5. Purify self (**3:3)**
      6. Practice righteousness (**3:4-15**).
      7. Love in deed and truth (**3:18**).
      8. Test the spirits and reject those that are not of God (**4:1-6).**
      9. Love those born of God because God is love (**4:7-21**).
9. Confidence Through Answered Prayer (**vv. 14-17**)
10. Answered Prayer According to His Will **(vv. 14-15**)
    1. Closely linked to the confidence we have through fellowship with Christ in faithfulness to His word is the access we have to the Father through Him – **(3:22; 5:14-15**) – He hears our prayers and will give us whatever we need according to His will.
    2. Bearing fruit grants confidence that we have fellowship with the Father and His Son, but we must make use of our access to the Father through Him to remain faithful in these activities – **John 15:5-8**
       1. (**v. 5**) – We are called to abide in Him by bearing fruit.
       2. **(v. 7)** – A blessing from that is the confidence of answered prayer.
       3. **(v. 8)** – The answered prayer is because God wants us to have what we need to bear fruit, for it glorifies Him.
    3. He gives whatever we need liberally and without reproach – **James 1:5**
    4. We need His help, and when we approach Him in prayer, we get it – **Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25**
    5. What do I lack? What am I struggling with? (**cf. Philippians 4:6-7**)
11. Answered Intercessory Prayer for Others (**vv. 16-17**)
    1. Not only has He granted us confidence in prayer, but He has granted us the confidence in knowing that I can use this tool to aid my brethren. **(4:21** – part of the love commanded)
       1. This also offers confidence through knowing that all my brethren have likewise the love and ability through prayer to aid me in my journey.
       2. **God has blessed us with a family engaged in prayers for one another!**
    2. **(v. 16)** – it is entirely appropriate to act for your brethren through prayer for their forgiveness, but not contrary to God’s conditions.
       1. **Not to death vs to death**
          1. **The only way sin does not lead to death is when it is repented of and confessed to God.**
       2. **Galatians 6:1-2** – the one who moves to restore him should pray for him!
       3. **James 5:15-18** – this incredibly effective tool should be used for the most important matters!
       4. **However, to pray for a brother to be forgiven who is continuing in their sin is to pray for something against God’s will.**
    3. **(v. 17)** – no matter which way you break God’s law (**3:4**) it is worthy of death, but it doesn’t have to end there.
12. Confidence Through Holiness **(vv. 18-21)**
13. Guarded Against the World **(vv. 18-19)**
    1. 3 “We know” statements **(vv. 18-20).**
    2. **(v. 18)** – Confidence in fellowship with God necessitates this fundamental understanding.
       1. Anyone ***“born of God does not keep on sinning” (ESV)*** (present active)
       2. **3:5-7, 9** – sin is contrary to His purpose, nature, and word (seed) – to persist in sin is to sever fellowship with Him.
       3. When a Christian sins – **1:9; 5:16** – repent, confess, ask forgiveness, not to death.
       4. Rather than making light of sin, KEEP YOUR GUARD UP – **1 Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 5:15-16; 6:10-11**
    3. **(v. 19)** – WE KNOW there are two classes:
       1. Those who are of God – thus keep themselves from sin – **2:29**
       2. Those who are under the control of Satan – **3:8**
    4. **This knowledge is black and white – binary – not to be altered in pursuit of false confidence.**
    5. **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** – WE KNOW through Jesus this is how it is, so we must aim to perfect holiness.
14. Guarded Against Idols **(vv. 20-21)**
    1. The final of 3 “we know” statements followed by a warning.
    2. **(v. 20)** – the coming of the Son of God in the flesh forever changed the world.
       1. **When you come face to face with Jesus you are changed forever.**
       2. You are given ***“understanding”*** of ***“Him who is true”*** – the God of the universe.
          1. Understanding of origin.
          2. Understanding of purpose.
          3. Understanding of the way to fulfill such.
       3. ***“we are in Him…”*** – we have accepted this truth and acted on it, AND WE MUST NOT BE PERSUADED BY ANYTHING ELSE!
    3. **(v. 21)** – whether it be a graven image, covetousness (**cf. Colossians 3:5**), self, or any other thing, YOU KNOW ONLY ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE YOUR FULL LOVE, ADORATION, WORSHIP, AND DEVOTION.
       1. KEEP YOURSELVES FROM ANYTHING THAT WOULD COME BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR LORD AND GOD.
       2. **Cf. Luke 14:26-27, 33** – love Him more than any other, bear your cross, forsake all.
          1. Because ***“he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (v. 12)***.

**Conclusion**

1. If we want confidence that we have eternal life, we must ensure that we have the Son of God.
2. God has gone to tremendous lengths to not only offer salvation, but to make it a sure thing for His children.
3. If we keep ourselves from all things opposed to Him, and keep ourselves in Him and He in us, then we can know that we have eternal life!