

**FIRST JOHN 5:13-21**

As John closes out this letter, he elaborates on some earlier principles and challenges us about some things he hasn't touched on previously. First, he assures us of an important truth...



**<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of Him.**

Notice that John says we can "know" that we have eternal life. What does he say can help us to do that?

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What can give us confidence in our prayer life?

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Now, John tells us of a personal responsibility we have to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**<sup>16</sup> If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. <sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. <sup>18</sup> We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.**

What is a sin that leads to death – and why would John say we shouldn't pray about that? (See Mat. 12:22-32)

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Should we be concerned about all sin?

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This last section reminds us that there is a spiritual war raging and we need to make sure we know which side we are on. .

**<sup>19</sup> We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. <sup>20</sup> We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true--even in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.**

Are God's children under control of the evil one? (Rom. 6:16-18 and 8:5-11)

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Who is true – and why is it crucial to know this?

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Why would John close by telling us to keep from idols?

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***Points to Ponder***

*Doesn't God hear everything – even misguided prayers?*

*If God's not answering our prayers, what might be the reason?*

*If the world is controlled by Satan, why would we want to have anything to do with it?*

