

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**1 John Lesson 13**

1 John 5:13-21

return pages 6 & 7

**Confidence in the Face of Conflict**

*Confidence for life comes from knowing Christ.*

Why is it that some people find it easy to be confident, but others are timid and unsure of themselves? Confident people typically feel certain that they can handle the situation they are facing. They may depend on their ability preparation, position, or charm to make them successful. People who lack confidence usually feel uncertain about their prospects, because they think that what they are facing is greater than their resources can handle.

Not everyone who feels confident is successful, because it is too easy for us to overestimate what we can do and to underestimate the challenge before us. On the other hand, some people who have little confidence in their own ability find that the challenge is not as impossible as they had supposed.

The Bible teaches us that in ourselves we are inadequate to face the challenges and conflicts of life. Instead of foolishly depending on ourselves with self-confidence, we need to find genuine confidence in Christ. We will likely face situations that demand more wisdom, strength, and skill than we possess. If we insist on trusting in our own resources, we will fail. We need to learn to draw on the infinite resources that God possesses if we are to succeed.

First John is a book that creates confidence in Christians. John wanted us believers to know our position in Christ and the benefits that the position gives to us. As he concluded 1 John, he reassured us once again that confidence for life comes from knowing Christ. We will endure challenges that are too big for us, but in Christ we can face them confidently, because He is more than sufficient for all of our needs.

**Getting in the Know**

Do you ever feel that you are the last one to hear about what is happening in your family, at your job, or around the neighborhood? When we do not get the information we need, it is hard for us to feel secure or to make confident decisions. We want to get in the know so that we are not surprised by life.

John wrote the letter we call 1 John so that Christians can be in the know about several important matters. As he came to the final section of the epistle, he repeated the word "know" several times as he sought to build his readers' confidence. John realized that what we know will determine how confidently we live for Jesus Christ.

When we want to lead someone to belief in Jesus Christ, the Gospel of John is a good place to turn. For Christians who need assurance and confidence, 1 John is written especially for their needs. As John summarized the whole letter, and

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especially 5:9-12, he stated in verse 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."*

As we plan for the future, we are often struck by how uncertain life can be. It is difficult to anticipate how our physical health and energy will hold up, how the economy will fare, or what changes will affect our families. One thing about the future is certain, however. Christians know today that they have eternal life in Christ. By putting their faith in Christ, they have received God's gift of eternal life (John 3:16). That is a gift that we enjoy already today, and it will continue to last forever.

In a world in which so much is uncertain, it is tempting to lose confidence. God's eternal life, however, gives us confidence to face the future.

### Knowing God Hears

God gives His children confidence for both the future and the present. When children are confident in their parents' love, they feel free to present their requests to them. In the same way, we can come confidently before God in prayer (5:14,15).



### Scripture memorization

*1 Jn 5:20*

*20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

*(KJV)*

Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God.

Jesus Christ has given to us an understanding of the truth.

God wants us to know the truth not be deceived by error.

Truth is centered in the person of Jesus Christ.

As we read these verses, we need to Be careful to view them in the light of what the Bible teaches else-where about prayer. The Bible has much to say on this subject, so we have to fit its principles and promises together.

In this passage, John made several important points about prayer. First, we can have confidence in prayer, because we have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Second, in our prayer we need to ask according to God's will. A loving parent does not always grant his child's requests, because sometimes those requests are not really in his or her best interests. For example, when a child asks for candy just before

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supper, the parent will likely say no. For God to do as we desire, we need to ask what He desires for us.

Third, when we ask according to God's will, we can be confident that He will hear us and help us. God does not ignore our prayers, and He does not forget about them. He certainly has the power to do what we desire. At the same time, He does not commit Himself to answer them just as we demand and just when we request. God knows best what is best for each of us. When He denies our petition, it is because He has something better in store for us.

John's principles in 5:14 and 15 are important guidelines for developing confidence in prayer. As we take our requests to our loving and wise Father, we can be certain that He hears us and responds to us in the best way.

### Knowing about Sin

Because sin is so deceptive and Satan's schemes are so clever, it is easy to become confused about what sin is and how we should handle it. If we are to be confident in the face of conflict, we need to know about sin.

John wrote first of a Christian brother who sins a sin that is *not unto death*. In this letter John was painfully realistic about the fact that Christians can and do sin. We should not be surprised by this fact, because we all have a sin nature, even after we have believed in Jesus Christ.

As John taught in 1 John 1:8 and 9, when we have sinned, we must not deny our sin or ignore it. Instead, we should admit that we have sinned, confess the sin to God, and receive cleansing from Christ. That action will enable us to resume fellowship with God.

When we see another Christian sin, we need to get involved in drawing that person back to God's way. John said that we should ask God to renew that person to spiritual life.

The sin not unto death is anything that does not meet God's righteous standard, either in belief or behavior in which the Christian could do unknowingly. (Lev.4:2-3) The Bible is clear that after we have placed our faith in Christ, our salvation is eternally secure. That security, however, does not mean that we can sin as we please. Christians are obligated to obey God's Word, and whenever we miss that mark, we have sinned and we must repent.

John also referred to a *sin unto death*. Some Christians think this verse refers to not accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, this would be the sin unto death if you were not saved, but these verses are speaking to saved individuals. Being a Christian is an honorable position in life and should not be abused by our apathy of GOD's love and grace. We should fear, the Bible teaches us:

*Prov 1:7*

*7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

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(KJV)

The so-called Christian who finds more pleasure in serving the devil rather than serving our precious LORD and Saviour who gave himself for us, would do well to fear for his life. GOD will not allow that person to continue in sin, while others around him or her look on. He or she has become an embarrassment to our LORD and HE for HIS Holiness sake will put an end to that so-called Christians' mortal life.

The latter portion of that verse pertains to the so-called Christian that is involved in that unrighteous behavior, the Bible says in I Jn 5:16b **I do not say that he shall pray for it.** The "he" in this verse is the so-called Christian, he should not be praying for death while in that state of unrighteousness, he would do better to repent and ask for GOD's help out.

First John challenges us to take sin seriously. According to 1 John 5:18, whoever is truly born of God does not evidence a pattern of sin. Jesus Christ protects God's children so that the Devil cannot harm them. Although sin is a constant threat to us on this earth, and we may slip into sinful actions on occasion, we do not have to live under sin's control. Because of Christ's work, we can be confident against sin.

### Knowing the Truth about Christ

John began both verse 19 and verse 20 with the phrase "and we know." Once again he was reminding his readers of what they could know because this knowledge would build their confidence.

In this letter John frequently divided topics into two contrasting categories, such as light and darkness or truth and error. In 5:19 he divided all of humanity into two groups. On the one hand, John and all other Christians were, and are, of God. Through faith in Christ all genuine believers are born into the family of God. On the other hand, the whole world lies in the realm of wickedness. John had taught in 2:2 that Jesus is the propitiation or legal satisfaction for the sins of both Christians and the whole world. His substitutionary death provided the potential of salvation for all, but only those who believe in Him actually receive for themselves the benefit.

In John's day in the first century false teachers called into question who Jesus was and what He did. John countered their erroneous claims by insisting that Jesus Christ is the Son of God Who came in human flesh (5:20; cf. 4:2, 3). He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). In Christ, God has revealed to us His truth. We do not have to be confused by error but in Christ we can be certain of the truth. As we know Christ we know God's truth and in knowing God's truth we are confident to face life's challenges.

### Knowing the Danger of Idols

One of John's favorite descriptions for his readers was "little children." In the last verse of his letter (5:21) he used this expression again. By calling them little children, he emphasized both his tender love for them and also their position in the

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family of God. Even though John had to give some stern warnings he wanted them to remember that he loved them and that God loved them.

As John rebuilt their shaken confidence he reassured them by pointing to all that God was doing for His children. At the same time John wanted Christians to remember that they have an important part to play as well. We must not sit back and be passive in the face of error and temptation. Instead, we need to become active in guarding against spiritual threats.

In some parts of the world today, idolatry is as wide spread as it was in the first-century Roman world. In Europe and North America the worship of material idols made of gold, silver, wood, plastic (TV) athletics, race-car drivers, and money is not uncommon. Nevertheless their culture has its own forms of idolatry. John wrote "Keep yourselves from idols" (v. 21), and we need to heed the warning.

Our idols today may be less obvious than what John was contemplating but they are just as destructive. An idol is anything you value to spend your time with more than with GOD.

When we value our possessions, popularity, fame, or leisure more than we value God we have made them our idols. When what others say is more important to us than what God's Word says, we have shifted our allegiance away from HIM.

To be confident in the face of conflict, we must renew our loyalty and commitment to God. Idols will always compete for our worship. We must choose to guard ourselves from them and, instead, recommit ourselves to the Lord.

Read 1 John again as you study 1 John 5:13—21.

**Notes**

<i>KJV</i>
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### 1 John Lesson 13

#### Confidence in the Face of Conflict

1 John 5:13-21

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does Hebrews 4:16 teach about our relationship with God through Christ?
2. In verses 16 and 17 John distinguished between two kinds of sin. What are, they?
  - a.
  - b.
3. According to Galatians 6:1, how should we seek to restore the sinning brother or sister?
4. According to 1 John 5:18, what is one thing Christ does for God's children?
5. What is an idol?
6. What is the purpose of this Lesson?
7. What is the key verse in this Study?
8. Name some idols in our world today?
9. What does genuine confidence for life comes from?
10. What sorts of ideas does the world present to us? What is the end result of the world's ideas?
11. What is the result of not cautiously admonishing a brother or sister when we see them involved in a sin?
12. What is the definition of a sin not unto death? Use scripture to prove your point!

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13. What is the definition of a sin unto death?
14. What happens to us when we give our values and priorities to the world around us, instead of giving our total allegiance to Christ?
15. What happens when we sin?

**True/False**

- The Bible teaches us that in ourselves we are inadequate to face the challenges and conflicts of life
- True confidence is not built on our personality, achievements, or personal resources..
- As we come to know God's truth, we are fortified to live confidently in the face of the conflicts we endure.
- If we see a brother or sister involved in a sin, we must rebuke them sharply and nag at them until they get the point?
- If we see a brother or sister involved in a sin, we should just ignore them and hope that they stop?

**Scripture memorization** (Write out these verses on the back page)

1 John 5:20; Hebrews 4:16; Galatians 6:1; 1 John 1:9