

November 19, 2023
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
1 John 5:13-17

“Moral Test #3: Do You Know? – Part 1”

- I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
- II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5 - 2:27 [Moral; Social; Doctrinal]
- III. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #2 – 2:28 - 4:6 [Moral; Social; Doctrinal]
- IV. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #3 – 4:7 - 5:21 [Social; Doctrinal; Moral]
 - A. The Social Test – 4:7 – 5:1
 - B. The Doctrinal Test – 5:1-12
 - C. The Moral Test – 5:13-21

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may **know** that you have eternal life.

¹⁴ [And] This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we **know** that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we **know** that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not *leading* to death, he shall ask and *God* will for him give life to those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is a sin *leading* to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not *leading* to death.

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. When John says “These things” in verse 13, to what is he referring? What did he write that would help us know absolutely for sure that we have eternal life? Do you know for sure? If so, why do you know?
2. What were the false teachers saying to people in John’s time about what they needed to know? What is John saying they need to know?
3. Some religious groups say it is impossible to have assurance of salvation. Why is it important to have assurance? What are the benefits of knowing for sure that you have eternal life? Be specific about how it helps you in your daily life.
4. The Greek word for “and” is at the beginning of verse 14 but not always translated into English. Why is it important? What is the connection between verse 13 and verses 14-15? How does assurance of salvation impact our confidence in prayer?
5. Does 1 John 5:14-15 mean that God is obligated to give us anything we ask in prayer? Some people say we simply need to “name it and claim it.” What verses might they use to support their position? How would you answer them?
6. What are some conditions in the Bible for answered prayer? (See Heb. 11:6; Mk. 11:22; James 4:3; Jn. 14:13; 16:23; Ps. 66:18; 1 Jn. 3:22; 1 Pet. 3:7)
7. In vv. 16-17, what is “a sin not *leading* to death” vs “a sin *leading* to death”? Is that referring to a believer or an unbeliever? Is the physical death or spiritual death? How would you support your position? What does this have to do with confidence in prayer?
8. If you were to rate your prayer life on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being you pray with absolute confidence like Jesus prays), what would it be? Why did you give yourself that number? What would it take to move closer to 10?
9. List and discuss 3 or 4 main lessons you are learning about prayer from these verses. How will this specifically impact your prayer life this week?
10. Share with one another your best practices when it comes to prayer.
11. **Bonus questions to prepare for next time:** In v. 18, is John saying we can achieve sinless perfection in this life? Who is John referring to in v. 20 when he says, “This is the true God and eternal life”? Why does John end his letter about assurance of salvation by giving a warning about idols?
12. Pray for **specific people** you know that don’t yet have biblical assurance that they have eternal life. Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to share your testimony and how they too could know for sure that they have eternal life.
13. **Memorize** 1 John 5:13-17.