

1st John # 85

“Assurance in Prayer” 1st John 5:14-15

If God did the most in providing us with eternal life at the point of salvation, it stands to reason, *a fortiori*, that He'll take care of us before we reach eternity and the basis for our security in time is our learning, understanding, believing and applying God's testimony of what we received at salvation.

Our confidence begins with realization of our eternal salvation's security which leads to courage before man creating our day by day temporal security.

No one is going to execute the spiritual life of the Church Age unless he first understands eternal security and is familiar with God's irrevocable gifts we receive at salvation.

People will do everything in the world to gain security, including compromising their freedom, honor and integrity but no one ever gains human security by compromising their character.

Ignorance of the doctrine of eternal security means experiential insecurity and cognizance means experiential security from confidence in God.

It's one thing to believe in Jesus Christ but it's quite another to realize that as a believer, there's nothing we can do to lose our salvation.

We did nothing to gain our eternal life and we can do nothing to lose our eternal life.

Love is made complete when we reach spiritual maturity and only then we can have confidence on the day of judgment.

And guess what?

If we can have confidence at the Bema seat simply because we have fulfilled the plan of God, we can also have confidence right here, right now.

Confidence in God produces courage toward people.

Courage toward God is presumptuous and blasphemous and confidence in man is naive and foolish.

Morality toward God is legalism, while worshipping man is arrogance and vanity.

Expressing unconditional impersonal love for God is arrogance; only personal love for God is virtuous but personal love toward man is weakness and distraction.

Personal love toward man is virtue dependent; it depends on the virtue of impersonal love for happiness, stability, blessing and its continuation.

This is the confidence that we have in Him that He hears us but there's a condition that must be met before He hears us and if that's fulfilled, we can have confidence or absolute certainty that He hears us.

This confidence we have is because we experientially abide in fellowship with Jesus Christ, so our confidence only comes from our moment by moment relationship with Him.

We have to make the study of God's Word top priority in life and that requires discipline and tenacity.

This is a process of indoctrination so all our previously learned human viewpoint is replaced by divine viewpoint and that's why John wants us to know we're eternally secure *in Christ* so that we can be experientially growing *in Him*.

God hears prayer that follows the pattern of His game plan and we aren't even in the game plan unless we know biblical truth.

Knowing biblical truth means knowing the will of God and knowing what is legitimate for prayer and what's not.

Only by knowing God's Word will we ever know His will;

so it's not by a feeling, it's from our knowledge of His Word because in order to get to know Him, we must understand His Word.

And then because we know His Word, we know Him and His will and therefore our prayer requests are consistent with His purpose for us.

And by the way, this is not guaranteeing that God will answer every desire we have; it's encouraging us to have an authentic powerful prayer life where God consistently answers our prayers and that's only possible if we're growing spiritually so that we'll understand how to pray and what to pray for, as we'll be asking for things that God will graciously provide.

We fail in prayer because we fail to understand and use biblical truth.

Prayer was never designed to fulfill our lusts and desires but to fulfill the will, plan and purpose of God for our lives and to give us access to Heaven while still living on earth.

To express the will of God in our prayers, we have to come to know what the will of God is or how to ask for the will of God instead of our own will.

Our prayers fail because we fail in our spiritual life and our prayers are answered when we succeed in our spiritual life, so if we don't understand the will of God, we'll not be successful in our prayer life.