

You Can Know

I John 5:13-15

I. Do you ever so incredibly busy that you're not sure whether you're coming or going? We've had one of those weeks. We've had baseball games 4 nights (which means picking up the kids, getting them dressed and fixing supper). Yesterday morning another game and then a fundraiser for baseball last night. We had to sandwich in tilling and planting the last two rows of the garden and mowing between those two things. And then after church this morning, Jenn and I made about 10 batches of candy for Liberty to hand out as thank you gifts for people buying her chickens last month. *I told Charlie my lesson tonight was going to be "I'm tired and let's go eat a hot dog! But, since I had already started this lesson on what it is you can know, I thought I would finish it.*

II. What is it we can know? Let's look at 1 John 5:13-15. Please stand in honor of reading His word.

A. Verse 13 is one of the most comforting verses of the Bible but one that is often overlooked.

B. According to v. 13, what is it we can know? *We can be certain that we have eternal life.*

Have you heard stories or known of people on their deathbeds whose last words are "I hope I've done enough?"

C. When I read this verse it seems to indicate I have one responsibility when it comes to my eternal life. What is the one thing I have to do? *Believe in the name of the Son of God.*

D. To me, this verse seems to promise that my salvation is based on fact not feelings. *I don't mean to step on toes nor suggest that we don't have strong feelings when it comes to things of the Lord. But why might it be good for our salvations to be a fact not a feeling? Blah-blah*

E. Look at the back half of this verse. What does it say? *That you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.* Emphasis on the "continue to believe"? *The lyrics of this verse in a familiar song summarize what continuing to believe results in:*

I may have doubts and fears, my eyes be filled with tears.

But Jesus is a friend who watches day and night.

I go to him in prayer, He knows my every care.

And just a little talk with Jesus makes it right.

III. Let's look at v. 14 to see what else we can absolutely know.

A. Verse 14 is familiar to us and it has 3 parts? *The first part says we can have confidence in Him.* Does anyone have an example of something you are absolutely confident in when it comes to yourself? *Blah-Blah . . . me teaching math.*

B. There is just something comforting in that. It becomes a little harder to have that same absolute confidence in other people because we humans are frail and prone to error. *We've probably all experienced the heartache and dissolution of a coworker, loved one, or friend throwing us under the bus.* How many of you have had that happen? *It can totally shake your foundations, depending on the severity of it.*

C. But when our confidence is in the Lord, what does the second part of v. 14 say we can do? *Ask anything of Him.* You know the mathematician part of me always jumps on these always, anythings, alls, and nevers. They are very rarely true. This verse says I can ask anything of Him.

D. The third part of this verse is a conditional statement . . . an if-then statement. What does it say? *If we ask according to His will, He will hear us.* What is the pesky part of this? *Our prayers have to be in God's will.*

IV. Let's finish tonight by looking at v. 15. (Read: *If we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know we have the requests which we have asked from Him.*)

A. This is a prayer of faith, isn't it? We are really assuming a couple of things here:

1. We know what to pray for and:
2. We have enough faith to pray.

Doesn't this tie right in to Gary's devotion this morning? I always think that's so cool.

B. This verse implies that we can absolutely trust God day by day. We can be confident in Him. We can know that as long as we are attempting to live our lives in His will, we can know He hears us every prayer, every day.

C. As we pray, aren't we actually just trusting God to answer in the best way possible for us? So can we not approach His throne and absolutely know He hears us and our petitions? That is comforting.

C. I want to summarize this lesson tonight by saying two things:

- #1 We can know we have eternal life and we can know that God hears our prayers.
- #2 I'm tired and let's go eat a hot dog.