Concluding Confidence for the Christian
Part One
1 John 5:13-17

John concludes his letter by taking some time to reflect on what he's written and drive home key truths, with the goal of inspiring confidence in those that he has poured his heart into. He does this by including five "knowledge" statements that highlight unshakeable truths in the concluding nine verses. We'll take a look at the first two today as we seek to live confident Christian lives.

I.   You Can Have Confidence Because You Have Eternal Life (v. 13).

Here is the purpose of the entire letter. You can know that you hold, and that you will continue to hold eternal life.

   A. This confidence is given to those who believe in Jesus.

The confidence of John's audience was shaken by the claims of the secessionists. John restores it by saying that if you believe in the person of Jesus, you can have eternal life!

   B. This confidence is illustrated throughout this letter.

      - You can have confidence if you walk in the light (1:7).

      - You can have confidence if you do not love the world (2:14; 5:1-5).

      - You can have confidence if you obey God's commands and abide in Him (2:28-3:4).

      - You can have confidence if you love one another (2:7-11; 3:11-24; 4:7-21).

      - You can have confidence if you believe in truth (2:18-26; 4:1-6; 5:6-12).

II.   You can Have Confidence Because Your Prayers are Heard (vv. 14-17).

The sovereign God of the universe bends His ear to hear the prayers of His unworthy child.

   A. Prayer is offered to gain access to God (v. 14).

Confidence literally means "freedom of speech" or "boldness!"

   B. Prayer must be offered according to God's will (vv. 14-15).

When we learn to want what God wants, we have the joy of receiving His answer to our petitions.

   C. Prayer should be offered on behalf of others (vv. 16-17).

The assurance of salvation should not lead believers to selfish preoccupation, but rather to prayer for others.