



What Do You Know For Sure: God Answers Prayer

1 John 5:14-15

Big Idea for the Series: Ten weeks of biblical truth designed to show the evidence the Apostle John points to revealing true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life.”

The Bottom Line: God hears and answers the prayers of His people.

Welcome Verse: Romans 12:12

Introduction:

Man has a deep desire for certainty. Uncertainty is a major cause of stress in our lives. To help us through the uncertainty of life, the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle John to write First John.

The word, *know*, occurs 39 times in the letter of First John.

In the final section of his letter, John gives five certainties. We’ve already covered the first two: We *know* Jesus is God and we *know* God gives us eternal life.

Today, we discuss the third certainty: God answers prayer.

Tension:

Prayer is difficult because it requires a release of control and a submission of the will.

Prayer is difficult because it is giving away a need that we can physically see to a God we can’t physically see.

Prayer is difficult because we have probably all prayed prayers in the past that seemed to be left unanswered.

If we are honest, there are many moments where we read something in scripture that runs against the grain of our day-to-day reality. Today’s text may be one of those moments.

Truth:

Read 1 John 5:14-15.

Today's text is concerning the prayers of those who have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

God's family can come with their prayers confidently. The original language literally translates this to, "freedom of speech."

If it's big enough to worry about, it's big enough to pray about. Pray small prayers; pray big prayers.

This is a promise that comes with a qualifier – pray according to his will.

All petition-based prayer is ultimately a submission of my will to his will.

How do I know if it's according to his will? *It is for his glory, abides by his truth, and is in line with his character.*

Why pray if God's will prevails? *Because prayer is the means by which we receive what it is God desires and decides to give to us.*

Application & Conclusion:

Come to God in prayer with confidence and assurance that he hears you and withholds no good thing from you.

Next Steps:

- Memorize Colossians 4:2.
- Designate a special place in your home for daily prayer.
- Pray over a friend/family member this week.