



6/25/26

As I look at today's passage, I have to ask myself... what's the thing that captures my attention the most? I guess I would have to say there are two things. 1. Summarizing all the wonderful things God does for His children according to these verses, I realize how wonderful it is to be with Him, and I don't want to forget it. 2. Vs. 18 gives me so much hope... Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, protects those who belong to Him so that the evil one cannot touch us. He can try to scare us, but that's about it. Our soul and our eternity are absolutely safe. That's huge! I hope it encourages you as much as it does me.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 John 5:13-21

This is the close of going through the book of 1 John. I thought it went so well with the call to build a godly home because it continues to speak to out two huge things. First, nothing happens in being loving toward others if I am not abiding in the Lord. It's by His supernatural power that anything truly good can happen. Second, my call to love others is not based on how they treat me, but on God's love for me. That deeply impacts how I treat relationships... without expectation, but in love. Actually, there's one more thing... the perfection God does in me as I grow in Him comes from His love. When I love as He loves, there is no cause for stumbling, and I am perfected in His love. Wow. This is a life I want!!!

Today, as John closes his letter, he focuses again on our relationship with God. Everything comes from God!

Vs. 13 ~ "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

Throughout this letter, John spoke of reasons he was writing...

- *It brought him joy to share the message of Jesus (1:4).*

- *He wanted to remind us of the message we've always had, which is to love one another (2:7-8).*
- *He wanted to remind us that our sins are forgiven, we know the Lord, we have overcome the evil one, His word abides in us, and we are strong in the Lord (2:11-13).*
- *He wanted us to be warned about those who try to deceive us (2:26).*
- *Finally, He wanted us to have confidence in our salvation (5:13).*

Everything John wrote centered on those reasons. As I look specifically at 1 John 5:13, I ask myself, "Why is it important that I know I have eternal life in Jesus by faith? The answer is, I need that confidence so that my heart will not condemn me. My flesh loves to cast accusations on my heart because sitting in shame of my sin renders me ineffective for the gospel, justifies my selfish desires, and keeps me stuck in seeking instant gratification rather than the only true satisfaction that comes in the Lord!

Why do I have such a yucky flesh??? Because when Adam and Eve rebelled against God, they brought the CURSE of sin and death into the world. But Jesus gave His life for me so that I would be set free from the condemnation of sin. I am stuck with the flesh until Jesus takes me home, but I have the promise of Revelation 22:3 to hold onto when we're at home with the Lord, "No longer will there be ANYTHING accursed." My flesh will be gone!!! I believe Jesus, and I have eternal life, and I have the promise of 1 John 1:9 and 2:1... Though I will struggle with sin while I'm still on this earth (and who knows that better than my husband and those who I'm closest to?), I can confess my sin to the Lord and He forgives me and cleanses me and serves as my Advocate before the Father who says, "This one is Mine. She is forgiven." Praise the Lord!!!

Vs. 14-15 ~ "And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him."

O Lord, I did NOT have faith for so long that this was true. I have asked for many things where You said no. I see some important things here, though, that I was missing...

- *Psalms 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give the desires of your heart." I was not delighting in You.*
- *John 15:7-8 says, "If you abide in Me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples." I wasn't abiding in You. I was allowing my feelings and desires to have precedence over Your word. I wasn't seeking Your glory, and I wasn't motivated by a desire to bear fruit for You. I was all about ME. You can't bless that. That brings harm to my heart! You love me too much to help me go down the wrong path.*
- *1 John 3:22 says, "Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him." I wasn't being obedient to You or seeking to please You.*

- *Finally, from vs. 14-15, I wasn't asking according to YOUR will. I was asking according to MINE. What if You giving me what I thought was best would actually do damage?*

This is a great argument for someone who says, "Why should I pray? God's going to do what He wants anyway." First, if I think that, I'm probably not abiding with the Lord. Also, I think of when my kids were young. If they were being disobedient but still wanted me to give them what they wanted, I would say to them, "I can't give you what you want when you don't obey me, because then I would teach that disobedience is good. Right now, what you need is more important than what you want." Same goes for me. Finally, I see from this that God absolutely wants me to pray... to talk with Him about everything! The more I talk with Him, the more I want what He wants... and that's when I get to experience more and more of the blessings of His goodness. They're all there waiting for me. But He's not my sugar daddy. This is about relationship, not just getting what I want. O Lord, I pray that You will bless me with a greater desire for You, that I would delight in You far more than I would ever delight in my circumstances.

Vs. 16-17 are two of those verses in scripture that not even the best, most educated biblical scholars completely understand. So, I'm not going to pretend to know what they mean, but I WILL focus on what I CAN understand rather than what I can't. I pray that I will never let what I can't understand stop me from trusting what I can. They say, "If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death."

Here's what I understand...

- *Before I do anything else when I see my brother committing sin, I need to take it to the Lord. I don't start by confronting. I don't start by talking about him to others. I don't start by ignoring the problem and hoping it goes away. I start by praying for my brother.*
- *This implies that rather than judging my brother, I'm grieving for my brother and wanting the absolute best for him.*
- *James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." I don't understand how God uses my prayer, but I do understand that He uses my prayer. Plus, when I pray for someone and then see how God moved in their life, I get a great blessing! God gives me the privilege of being part of His answer. That's so cool!!!*
- *This passage says there is sin that leads to death. John Piper says it's not about a specific sin, but an attitude of sin... Someone who disregards the heart of God. The only thing I can pray for at that point is for a person's heart to turn to the Lord. Maybe the reason this is left vague is because I'm not supposed to decide or judge what person's sin leads to death. Maybe there's too much of a temptation to view myself as superior to others and look down on them. Maybe I just need to keep my eyes on the Lord and pray. I do know that Proverbs 29:1 says, "He who is often reproved yet stiffens the*

neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing." I think I need to pray that no one gets to that point, understanding that that's a prayer God may not answer with a yes, for whatever reason. I need to trust Him in that.

- All wrongdoing is sin. All. I can't measure my sin as no big deal and measure someone else's sin as a huge problem. All sin breaks the heart of God. That should break my heart. O Lord, let me not minimize the gravity of any sin. It's all wrong.*
- These 2 verses are taken in context about praying and asking God for help. I need to understand that I don't understand what God is doing... but I can trust that He's got a plan, and He will carry it out.*

Now... as I pray for those who commit sin vs. those who make a practice of sin, I can get deeper insight from vs. 18, "We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but He who was born of God (the only begotten Son, Jesus) protects him, and the evil one does not touch him." Whoever I'm praying for, the evidence that they belong to Jesus will show itself by the path they make with their choices... either a path of obedience to God or a path of sin. To keep on sinning is different than to commit a sin. To keep on sinning is to ignore the heart of God and just keep doing what I want to do. That's not saved.

But here's the wonderful news... for those who ARE saved, who don't keep making a path of sin, Jesus the Son of God protects them. As James 4:10 says, instead of making a practice of sin, they "submit to the Lord, resist the devil, and he flees." I find so much hope in this verse!!! JESUS protects me from the evil one. Jesus doesn't allow the evil one to have me or touch me. The devil can try to scare me, but he has no power over me!!! I want to experience that freedom! And I want to pray for others, that they might experience that freedom.

Vs. 19 ~ "We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."

The whole world like in the power of the evil one. But because I'm from God and the blood of Jesus covers my sin, Jesus protects me from the evil one. He has no power over me. I know from 1 John 2:17 that the world is passing away along with its desires. The evil one is on a leash, and his time is coming to an end. But "whoever does the will of God abides forever." Jesus is my protection!

Vs. 20-21 ~ "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

So to summarize... Jesus covers my sin. He protects me from the evil one. He gives me understanding so that I know the truth, and I know Him who is true. He helps me to understand. He WANTS me to know Him. He WANTS a relationship with me. Nothing and no one compare to Jesus. Only Jesus can give me eternal life. Only Jesus can answer my prayers. Only Jesus can hear and answer my prayers. Only Jesus can protect me from the evil one. Only Jesus has power over the evil one. Only Jesus gives me understanding. Because that is all true

of Him, why would I ever put anything in the place of God? O Lord, in light of who You are, please help me to flee idolatry and run to You.

John's final words of this whole letter are... "keep yourselves from idols." Such a simple statement. Such a huge impact on my life. Idols, those things that I place as more important than the Lord, will do all kinds of things to hurt me and those around me. They will promise life and satisfaction, but they will subtly deceive me until it seems that there is no way out of my hole. Keeping myself close to Jesus will never cause that kind of damage. O Lord, I can't even keep myself from idols if You don't help me. Please help me to remember who I am in You and all the reasons why You're the best place to be. Let my confidence in You grow more and more... all the way until I see You face to face. Amen.