**Title: Assurance, Prayer, and Protection**

**Text: 1 John 5:13–21**

**CONNECT: August 17, 2025**

**Connect to One Another:**

* For this week’s Mission Moment watch the video update for Stuart & Lisa Bell, mission partners in Bangkok, Thailand. Pray for Stuart & Lisa, and for those needs in your Connect group.
* Reflect back over 1 John. What are some of the main themes and applications that have been most instructive and encouraging to you?

**Connect to the WORD:** **Read 1 John 5:13–21**

“John is reminding believers that trusting Jesus means having the assurance of eternal life, confidence in prayer, and God’s protection from evil. John encourages us to lean on this hope, pray for each other, and stay away from anything that pulls us away from God.” Let’s look closely at each component.

**Assurance (5:13).** What are the three tests of authentic Christian faith? Why is assurance vital to the Christian life? What happens when a person lacks assurance? How should one seek assurance?

**Prayer (5:14–17).** What is prayer? Pastor Gordon defined what prayer is not followed by what prayer is. Discuss how prayer is: a relationship with God; an act of faith and dependence; an opportunity for transformation; a participation in God’s purposes; and a source of peace and comfort.

* What does it mean to pray “according to his will” (v.14), and how might this shape what you ask for? How can we know God’s will?
* When you consider that God hears you (v.15), how does this truth affect your attitude toward prayer, especially in challenging times? What role does assurance play in your prayer life?
* How do you respond when you see a brother/sister in Christ struggling with sin (v.16)? In what ways should you pray for them and support them biblically?
* Why do the sins of a true believer not lead to death? If there are those who commit a sin that does lead to death why would John suggest we not pray for them? (e.g. Peter/Judas).

**Protection (5:18–21)**

* Explain the meaning of v. 18.
* John reminds us that we are protected by the power of Christ, for “he who was born of God protects him.” Why is it important that we remember that we have no power on our own against the evil one? What should this prompt us to do?
* Read v. 20. Why does John remind us of our union with Christ?
* How can you use assurance, prayer, and protection to “keep yourselves from idols?” What idols are temptations for you?

**CONNECT to Walk It Out:**

* Seek biblical assurance this week.
* Do you know any brother or sister who is ensnared by sin? Pray earnestly for him/her this week.
* Live this week as one who belongs to God and not to the world.

**Meditate on these verses this week:**

**1 John 5:13–21**