

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION**What We Know for Certain 1 John 5:13–21**

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God
so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13*

Day 1: Read 1 John 5:13–21.

1. Read and compare the purpose statements for John's Gospel (see Jn. 20:31) and John's first letter (1 Jn. 5:13). What difference is there between the two groups of people that John addresses? How do these purpose statements meet the readers where they are?
2. According to this week's passage, what things can we know for sure? (Hint: start by noting all occurrences of the word "know.")

Day 2: Read 1 John 5:13–15.

3. What is eternal life (vs. 13) and what does it mean to have it? (1 Jn. 5:11–12, 20; Jn. 17:3) As a believer, when does your experience of eternal life begin—now or later? Explain.
4. What is one result of our knowing that we have eternal life? (vs. 14)
5. What does it mean to ask "according to his will" (vs. 14)? (see 1 Jn. 3:21–22; Jn. 15:7)
6. How do we know what God's will is? (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Thess. 4:3–6a; 5:16–18)

Day 3: Read 1 John 5:14–16.

7. Review 1 John 4:9–18. To what degree is the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—involved in our lives? (See also Rom. 8:27, 31–34; Heb. 7:24–25.)
8. In view of God's care for us, how should we care for our brothers? (Recall 1 Jn. 4:19–21.)
9. What aspect of loving others does John mention in verse 16?

10. Honestly, when you observe the sins of fellow believers, is your tendency to criticize them or to pray for them? What does intercessory prayer show about the person who prays?

Day 4: Read 1 John 5:14–17.

11. When we pray for others, in whose work are we participating? (Reread Rom. 8:27, 34.) How does God answer the prayer mentioned in verse 16a?
12. Whether praying for yourself or others, what prayers does God always answer with a resounding “yes”? How does he answer your prayers for forgiveness? For holiness? For wisdom? For a transformed life?
13. Regarding sin that “leads to death,” commentator Jackman states: “If John’s major emphasis as the letter ends is that only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God have eternal life, then the sin that leads to death, the sin that excludes the sinner from the life of God, must be the denial of that saving truth....The sin that leads to death does so because, by its very nature, it rejects the only means by which sin may be forgiven—the atoning death of the incarnate Son of God. This underlines the important truth that it is not that this sin is unpardonable, but that it remains unpardoned.”

That being said, can a true believer commit a sin that “leads to death”?

Day 5: Read 1 John 5:18–21.

14. What is John saying in verse 18? Why does this not contradict what he says earlier in 1:8–10?
15. What connection is there between verses 19 and 20 and verse 21? Hint: what word does John use three times to describe God in verse 20? (See also Jer. 3:23.)
16. Define the word “idol.” Ask God to reveal the idols that you worship. How you complete the following sentences may reveal areas where you have idols:

Life only has meaning if _____

I have worth only if _____

17. Ask God to help you forsake your idols—your false gods—and trust in him alone.