

**"Life in the Son"**  
**Walking Daily as a Child of God**  
*Lesson 3 – Confidence In Prayer*

**Introduction**

When was the last time you needed to speak to someone about something very important?

- someone in whom you really trusted, respected...looked up to
- someone in whom you had total confidence...absolute trust
- someone to whom you could "bear your soul" (*express fear, seek desperate help*)
- someone who you knew would tell you exactly what is true...what you need to hear
- someone who knew you better than you even know yourself

The best & easiest example of the above – a child and his/her parent (**Rom. 8:14-15**)

- fear displaced by the ability to cry out as a child to our Father

All of us need this "confidence" when approaching the perfect Parent – God our Father

- prayers ascend to heaven's throne room (**Rev. 8:3-4; 5:8**)
- great distance in praying toward heaven (**2 Chron 6:19-21, 23, 25, 27, 30, 33, 35, 39**)
- permission needed to make such an approach
  - President in Oval Office (*who can enter?*)
  - Biblical example (**Esth. 4:8-11**)
- those who are God's children have such permission (**1 Pet. 3:12**)

We can be "confident" in having this privilege of access to the Creator's throne

- because He cares for us (**1 Pet. 5:7**)
- because our Redeemer is also there to offer His help (**Heb. 7:25; 4:14-16**)

**Theme**

This lesson not just about a disciple's ability, responsibility to pray...but pray with **confidence**

**Body**

A) DEFINING CONFIDENT PRAYER (**1 Jn. 5:14-15**)

- 1) what is not being taught => promise to give anything (*blank check*)
  - prayer has never been intended for such selfish use (**1 Kings 3:6-14**)
- 2) what is being taught => contextual phrase to keep in mind
  - "...ask anything according to His will" (**Mk. 14:36**)
  - obviously implies we know & apply His will (*study, meditation on His word*)
  - the desires we express in prayer would equal our Father's will for us
  - our Father hears, grants such requests => CONFIDENCE BOOST!!

## B) DEMONSTRATING CONFIDENT PRAYER

- 1) when facing a big decision (**Lk. 6:12-13**)
  - Son of God prayed re: monumental selection to choose gospel's ambassadors
  - you have similar "big decisions" (*school, job, marriage, children, church*)
- 2) when facing a huge crisis (**Neh. 2:1-4**)
  - short prayer for the moment...length unimportant
  - much longer prayer offered some 4-5 months earlier (**1:4-11**)
- 3) when facing temptation (**Matt. 26:41**)
  - remedy against falling into temptation = watching & praying
  - all the Lord's disciples would fail this test that night
  - disciples today need to do the same to avoid falling – watch & pray

## C) DESCRIBING CONFIDENT PRAYER

- 1) it must be persistent (**Lk. 18:1-8; 11:5-13**)
  - we pray to a God who does have regard for us (**1 Pet. 5:7**)
  - we must pray persistently...it displays our confidence in our Father
- 2) it must be offered in humility (**Lk. 18:9-14**)
  - Pharisee boasted of his own "worthiness"
  - publican begged for mercy because of his "unworthiness"
  - prayer isn't the time to remind God of how good we are
  - prayer is the time to beg of God what we need that only He can supply
- 3) it must become a "custom" (**Dan. 6:10**)
  - a comforting habit to rely on when difficult times challenge your faith
  - godly customs are best developed early on in life (**Dan. 1:8**)
    - later faithfulness in future challenges will be easier
  - God still helps our prayers during our most difficult struggles (**Rom. 8:26-28**)
    - despite our own failures at knowing what to say, we can still pray
    - that will surely breed confidence in our prayer life

## **Conclusion**

Hopefully, after examining all these passages, we can see how our prayer life should be characterized with "confidence."

- remember our opening illustration?
- who better to talk to than your heavenly Father who knows you better than anyone?
- hasn't He earned your trust & respect?

Prayer doesn't make or establish a relationship...rather, it indicates a relationship exists

- a privilege a disciple possesses because you are in a covenant relationship with God
- **Acts 2** – those guilty of sin told to repent, be baptized to be right with God
- **Acts 8** – Simon told to repent, **PRAY** to be right with God

In some ways the young are limited in what they can do to serve God in His kingdom today

- haven't seen a lot...haven't had to deal with difficult, heart-wrenching decisions
- can't serve as elders, deacons...most likely haven't done much public preaching/teaching
- certainly not "older men" or "older women" as described in the Scripture **(Titus 2)**

But a young person is no less the Lord's disciple than one who has been a Christian for decades

- he/she has answered the gospel call
- he/she can perform a duty absolutely vital to discipleship => **PRAY**
- and can do so immediately upon obedience
- just like any other aspect of discipleship, your prayer life should grow over time

If you're a Christian and a member of the Lord's New Testament church, you have the ability to "pray with confidence" any time you need to speak to your Father about anything

- ask what you need "...according to His will" **(1 Jn. 5:14)**
- "...come boldly to the throne of grace...and find grace to help in time of need"  
**(Heb. 4:16)**