

1 JOHN 5:13-21 (NASB)

<sup>13</sup>These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup>This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

<sup>16</sup>If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not *leading* to death, he shall ask and *God* will for him give life to those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is a sin *leading* to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. <sup>17</sup>All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not *leading* to death.

<sup>18</sup>We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. <sup>19</sup>We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power* of the evil one. <sup>20</sup>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. This is the true God and eternal life.

<sup>21</sup> Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

**REVIEW**

In his concluding remarks John returns to his overall goal: to know the Father. Knowledge and faith are so intimately connected; they reveal what God has established to be true in our hearts – and help us reject what is untrue.

**STUDY IT**

- **Verses 13-15.** Why do followers of Christ have confidence?
- **Verses 16-17.** What promise do we have when we pray for those who struggle with sin?
- **Verses 18-20.** How does Jesus protect his followers from evil? (See also John 10:1-18)
- How does John end the letter? What does idolatry reveal about the relationship between *knowledge of God* and his promised life?

**APPLY IT**

- What have you learned throughout this study? What difference will this make in your life?
- Examining the chart below, what idols (left column) are apparent in your life? Take some time to let this reflection lead you to repentance and renewal in your trust that Jesus has mastery over these areas.

If you seek	Your greatest nightmare	People around you often feel	Your problem emotion
<b>POWER (Success, winning, influence)</b>	Humiliation	Used	Anger
<b>APPROVAL (Affirmation, love, relationships)</b>	Rejection	Smothered	Cowardice
<b>COMFORT (Privacy, lack of stress, freedom)</b>	Stress, demands	Neglected	Boredom
<b>CONTROL (Self-discipline, certainty, standards)</b>	Uncertainty	Condemned	Worry

Chart from Tim Keller's *Gospel in Life*.

**WORD LIST**

*death* - The ultimate separator. Physical death as well as relational. John is likely using this word to refer to sins that result in physical death.

*idols* – Anything that competes with our affection for God. These can be bad things *or* good things.