

**King's Way Church**  
**Message for Feb. 4, 2007**  
**Written by Roger Miller**

**YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER! ...?**  
**1 John 5:13-20**

Today, our goal is not to grow smarter or know more but to **know better**. This series is called *Assurances: What God Wants You To Know*. It's crucial to note that in addition to the word "know" appearing 40 times in this letter, the word "love" appears even more. The Christian life is all about love. In fact, last week we saw that John said, (v. 8) whoever does not love does not know God. Loving and knowing are side by side.

God doesn't want you to live your life in insecurity, constantly second-guessing who you are, why you're here, what your purpose is, where you stand with him, and on and on. He wants you to know these things because he wants you to know him. **He wants you to have the assurance that comes with a relationship with Jesus Christ.** The object of our relationship with God is that we grow in love. The object is that you love him, and that you love others the way he loves others. The more you love, the more you know him. The more you know him, the more you know who you are. In closing out this series, we'll look at **three things God wants you to know**.

**1. GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW BETTER, THAT YOU'RE SECURE IN HIM.**



(v. 13) *I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.*  
(v. 12) *So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life.*

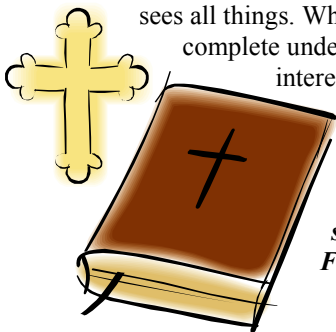
Wherein does our security lie? In our connection with Jesus Christ. The fact is, there is nothing about this world that is secure. Health, relationships, money, it can all dwindle so quickly. There's only one thing in life that's certain: **God loves you**. And that's all you need. All you need is God, but you don't have to wait until your world falls apart to discover this. You can know now.

John says that you can know you have eternal life because of all the things he has written about: God loves you. Jesus died for you. Your sins are forgiven. You are his child. He is your Father. It is in the love your father has for you that you find your security. God wants you to know that you're secure in him. Also...

**2. GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW BETTER, THAT HE HEARS YOUR PRAYERS.**

(v. 14-15) *And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. And if we know he is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that he will give us what we ask for.*

I was told once that this was God's small print. His loophole. His backdoor clause. You can pray all you want, but if it's not his will you're not going to get it - so, too bad for you. No. Too **GOOD** for you. Think about it. God is all-knowing. He sees all things. When we ask for things, we ask with a limited understanding. When God answers, he answers with complete understanding. He answers with your best interests in mind, because doing his will is always in your best interests. **Because our prayers are protected by an all-knowing, all-loving God.**



Matthew 7:8-11 *For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.*

It's the same with God. He hears your prayers with the ears of a loving Father, and he answers according to what is best for you, in accordance with his will. Some say, "If it's God's will it's going to happen anyway." That's not true. You can miss out on God's will simply by not asking. James said, "... **the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it.**" (James 4:2)

*Feel free to reproduce any of the content contained within this message.*

God wants you to know that he listens to your prayers and he responds to your prayers. If you ask for the wrong thing, he'll say no. He won't give you something that isn't ultimately good for you. But if you ask for too little, or nothing at all, you limit what God can do in your life.

I think God looks at us the same way. It's like he asks, "How many hints can I drop? I'm willing to give you so much, but you ask for so little." We get bogged down in wondering if we can ask God for a new TV or a new SUV - and he's saying, "TV? SUV? Come on guys! Think big!"

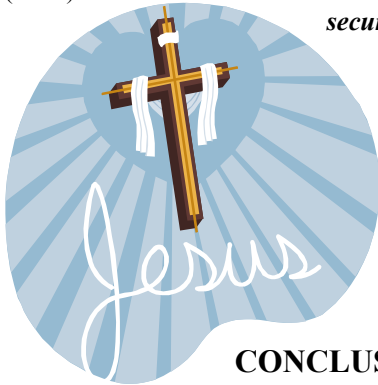
God is waiting to answer your prayers. He'll only give you what is good for you - what is consistent with his will for you - but that includes far more than many of us are willing to ask for.

*(v. 16) If you see a Christian brother or sister sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life.*

This is how important prayer is. When we see someone making choices that aren't good for them, we may not be able to intervene, but we can pray for them. Prayer is enough to save them, because prayer is that powerful. Paul says, ***"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."*** (Philippians 4:6) God is ready to listen to your prayers. He's ready to respond. He's waiting on you.

### 3. GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW BETTER, THAT YOU CAN BE GOOD.

*(v. 18) We know that those who have become part of God's family do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot get his hands on them.*



Now, you won't win every battle. And some battles may rage for weeks or months or years—it may take a while to get victory in certain areas, but you will ultimately win the war, because God's seed is in you.

*(v.19-20) We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the power and control of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we are in God because we are in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.*

### CONCLUSION

1 John was written so that we could ***know and know it better***. Know that ***you have forgiveness***. Know who ***you are in Christ***. Know that ***you are secure in God's love***. Know that ***you belong to him***. Know that ***he considers you his child***. Know that ***he loves you for all eternity***. Know that ***he hears your prayers***. Know that ***you will win the war against sin*** — because once God's life is in you, you cannot keep sinning. Holiness is within your grasp. Don't give up, don't lose hope (***a positive expectation built on God's goodness***).

***“Our vision is to make a change in our community by being a *life-giving* church that is *true* to the Bible and *relevant* today by helping You find *Your way!*”***

-King's Way Church

*Feel free to reproduce any of the content contained within this message.*