

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- 530, I heard the voice of Jesus say
- Come away from rush and hurry
- Jesus calls us
- 460, What a friend we have in Jesus

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #12

The believer's keys to prevailing prayer

1 John 3:21-24

Sending prayer

Calendar:

Next Sunday!

October 30, Church service and day at Hartstone

Be there by 8:50, breakfast at 9:00.

Nov 6, Fall Back an hour. Communion meal.

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

642 Ellen Lynn, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

(707) 485-7713 www.GraceBibleRedwoodValley.org



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love. truth. grace.

“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #12

The believer's keys to prevailing prayer

1 John 3:21-24

- October 23rd, 2022 -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #12

The believer's keys to prevailing prayer

1 John 3:21-24

If we stand back to get the bigger picture, we see a design theme to what John is building in this epistle: 1 John 2:28 *Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.* The apostle fills his building with hints and accents of the sense of imminence, of a breath held in anticipation, of expectation that the Lord is right at the door. His hand of readiness is in the air, and when it drops the angel will blow the trumpet call, the door will open, and we the children of God will step through that rapture portal in space and time and directly into the light of the glory of His presence and there will receive our reward at His Bema Seat! There is sharp anticipation of joy, alongside a desire and urgent motivation to be found in that instant pleasing in our attitude and in action, doing the things that are good and right and commanded by the Lord. Self and its priorities necessarily fade.



v21-22, As we read this, we get the sense that our passage here is saturated with John's anticipation of being ready. And that readiness finds its way into a prayer life whose antenna is pointed at and tuned to heaven's frequency and message.

Genuine love for the brethren, revealed by priorities lived out in real deeds of self-sacrifice, builds up in the heart of the believer the testimony that he or she will face Jesus Christ, at the Bema, unashamedly and with confidence whenever He may appear (2:28). *John here stresses the importance of a clear conscience* (see 1:7; 2:2; Heb. 9:8-14; 10:22-25; 1 Tim. 1:19).

v22, Here the comments of Stephen Smalley are helpful, "There is nothing mechanical or magical about prayer. For it to be effective, the will of the intercessor needs to be in line with the will of God; and such a conformity of wills is brought about only as the believer lives [abides] in Christ."

And, "Obedience is the first condition for answered prayer, when that prayer is offered by a child of God. The second, related condition is willing service: the determination to 'do' always (poioumen, present) what pleases God."

v23, This is a clarifying way of boiling it down. In fact, John puts it in the singular, *This is His commandment* (who is "His" here-see the end of v21: God) And this commandment comes with two sides, like one coin has two sides:



Side 1) *believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ.*

(This is best translated as, "believe **toward**, with the **Name** of His Son Jesus Christ" as the object. (See the included list, for the Son, as your focus and the object of your faith).

Believe in God's Son: 3 components or movements of faith:

1) Accurate *knowledge*, 2) Assent, 3) *Trust/reception*.

Side 2) *Love one another.* God the Son commanded this of his disciples. Love is self-emptying and self-sacrificing, other-focused, other exalting, receives love as a child without guile and with delight. It seeks the highest good for the other. Is patient and kind. Not self-defensive, but defends the truth even at cost to itself. Love shows up. It is not self-seeking. It values and builds things that last and that are true. It cherishes. It is at the very essence of what God is, and so is to be at the essence of what God's children are. *Love is to be the identifying mark of the Christian who is abiding in Christ.*

v24a, John narrows it down to the individual Christian, and speaks of abiding. There is a connection here between *abiding* and *keeping His commandments*. That is, the individual, saved, justified believer abides in Christ and in God to the degree and extent that they obey God's commandments that apply to the believer in this age.

v24b, Obedience to God's commands results in mutual abiding: God in man and man in God. God *abides* in every obedient believer with His communicative presence, sweetness of fellowship, power, and blessing, including in answered prayer (cf. John 15:10-11, 14), but He *indwells* (lives in) every believer (cf. Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13). The evidence that God is abiding presently in us is the manifestation of His Spirit in and through us. This is the first explicit reference to the Holy Spirit in 1 John.