

1 John 5:14-21
Bible Study Notes

Are there things we shouldn't pray for? If so, what are they and why?

Read 5:14-21

How should we pray (v. 14)?¹

If we "know that we have what we asked of him" (v. 15), why do prayers sometimes go unanswered?

Do we pray boldly? If not, why not?

How can we build confidence to pray boldly?

What might "sin that leads to death" mean?²

Why would John say that Christians aren't told to pray for that person?

How might you know if you've committed the sin that leads to death? What might you say to someone worried about that?

How does John's example of praying for a believer relate to praying with confidence?

What does it mean that anyone born of God doesn't sin (cf. 1:8)?³

How do we get the ability to know God's will (v. 20)?

What idols (i.e. false gods) might we be tempted to turn to when our prayers seem unanswered?

¹ I mean, in what manner, i.e. "confidently". Alternatively we could translate the word "boldly".

² In the sermon we spoke of this as knowingly rejecting what we knew to be God's will. Note also that the brother who is seen sinning should be understood as *apparently* a Christian rather than a true believer.

³ Similar to the sin that leads to death, Christians don't knowingly and willingly continue in sin. They don't defend sin as being alright.