



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### Praying Through 1 John 4:13-21

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for creating us in Your image, not to play with us or manipulate us for Your enjoyment, but to love us. Thank You for loving us even though You did not need anyone else to love, for You loved the Son and the Spirit from eternity past and They loved You. You also loved the holy angels You created. We cannot praise You and love You enough to express our thankfulness to You for life. Furthermore, when we sinned and became captive to the devil and its schemes, You continued to love us and You sent Your Only Son as our Liberator to save us and give us eternal life. You did not love us because we first loved You; instead, You loved us while we were still Your enemies and under the power of the ruler of this world. Father, thank You for sending Jesus as our Savior to die in our place and sacrificially bear the retribution that we deserved for our sins. Eternity will never give us enough time to understand how much You love us or give us enough time to love You as much as You deserve. Father, thank You for giving us the Spirit to stay with us each moment of every hour of every day, not only to stay with us but to live within us and never leave us. Through the presence of Your Spirit, we know that You abide in us and we abide in You. Help us tell others in the right way and in the right time that You sent Your only Son as the Savior of the world. We pray that You would help us know You better, love You more, and follow You and Your ways more closely as the Scriptures teach. Please give us the strength to do as Your Spirit leads us to pray. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

**Please Note:** I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [\*How God Teaches Us to Pray: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer\*](#), Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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