



The Believer's Assurance of Eternal Life

1 John 5:13-21

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:13—KJV).

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 (1 John 5:13—NASB).

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13—NRSV).

The Apostle John stated his reasons for writing his gospel and his letters. As he concluded the Book of John, he wrote in John 20:31, “But these (signs) are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” The Spirit of God inspired John to write so people could hear the good news about God’s Son; then, believe in Jesus the Messiah, and have eternal life. John went two steps further as he concluded his first letter. He wrote so the followers of Jesus would know and have assurance that they have eternal life. No follower of Jesus Christ needs to doubt whether they have eternal life now and will live forever with God. John wrote to remove all doubts. The children of God experience eternal life now as the Spirit of God loves, comforts, empowers, and gives them the assurance that Jesus abides with them and will remain with them forever. John also wanted his readers to know that God always hears and answers their prayers. In 1 John 3:19-24, John wanted believers to know that they will receive from God whatever they ask because they “obey His commandments and do what pleases Him.” John wrote that believers could come boldly before God in prayer, ask for anything according to the will of God, and “know that he hears us in whatever we ask,” and because He hears us “we know that we have obtained the requests made of him” (1 John 5:14-15).

Thinking Further

1. Who did John write His letters to? Did he also write His letters to you? Explain your answer.

2. Why did John write 1 John?

3. Having studied 1 John, did he achieve his purpose in your answer to Question 2. for you? Explain your answer.

4. Why do the followers of Jesus have boldness when they pray?

5. How do the followers of Jesus know they have obtained their requests?