



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

### Praying Through 1 John 5:1-5

Dear Heavenly Father, we want to honor You with our lives and all that we have, for You are worthy to be loved and served. Father, we do not deserve Your love, and we do not deserve such a Savior as our Lord Jesus Christ. He upheld Your Law of Love by His perfect obedience, and He became our Savior by His dying upon the cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Father, indeed, You are Holy, Loving, Merciful, and Just in all You say and do. By our seeking to obey all Your commands, we cannot fully show our love and appreciation to You for all You have done for us. Though we sinned grievously against You and rebelled in Your Kingdom, You loved us and You sent Your only Son to rescue us. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah that You promised Israel. Father, we know that we are born of God as the Scriptures teach, and we thank You for the many assurances You have given us that we can use to remind and reassure ourselves that we are the children of God. Please help us love all Your children and pray for Your blessings to be upon them, even when they drive us to exasperation and would even drive us to hate them by what they say and do. Help us love them even as You have loved us and them when, as Your children, we still act without love sometimes. Call us to repent when we lack love and forgiveness. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and empower us so none of Your commandments will be burdensome but right and wise deeds to do. Increase our faith in Jesus, the Son of God, and enable us to conquer and live victoriously in the world. 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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