**Sermon Notes**

“Care by Prayer”

1 John 5:14-17

November 21, 2021

**Growth Group Homework**

For the week of 11-21-21

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., 1, 2 & 3 John: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2013, pp. 111-117; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 323.

**Getting Started:**

1. What might make someone afraid to ask another person for something?

**Digging Deeper:**

Read 1 John 5:11-19

1. This is the fourth and final time John used this term “confidence” (5:14) in this letter. The term means confidence, boldness, freedom of speech; the trait of being willing to undertake activities that involve risk or danger; especially that involve being honest and straightforward in attitude and speech. What is its context each time it is used in the following verses?

2:28

3:21-22

4:17

5:14

How is “confidence” applied in each case to the believer’s status before God?

1. What is one prayer you very much want God to answer?
2. What constraint on answered prayer does John mention (5:15)?. What are some other constraints mentioned in these passages? Can you think of other constraints to answered prayer mentioned in Scripture?

John 15:7; 1 John 3:22

John 14:13-14

James 1:5-8; Mark 11:23-24

James 4:2; Matt 7:7-8

James 4:3

Matt 6:14-15; Mark 11:25

Psalm 66:18

1. What misperception about God does John want to overcome (5:14-15)? In other words, what would be the opposite of John’s portrayal of God in these verses? Are there misperceptions about God that negatively impact your prayers?
2. In 5:16-17 John gives an example of 5:14-15 – a prayer that is in accord with God’s will. Explain in your own words what this prayer is that we can pray with assurance.
3. For Thought and Discussion: In 5:16, does John mean that we shouldn’t pray for those who commit sins leading to death? Or does he mean that we may, but a positive result isn’t guaranteed?
4. Without divulging names or details, do you know any brother or sister indulging in a sin that does not lead to death? What has been your response? How could you pray for him or her?

**Let's Pray:**