

# **Power in Prayer**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 3:21-24.

B. With a guilty conscience, we manifest actions that show we have lost contact with God in many ways.

C. We are to reassure our hearts with a deed of self-giving love. (I John 3:19)

D. With this reassurance, it will be impossible to be condemned.

## II. The person whose heart does not condemn him does not look to himself but to God.

A. He has no confidence in the flesh.

B. The result.

1. We have confidence in God.

2. We have a daily adventure of answered prayer.

a. This is what God expected us to experience every day.

b. Prayer is the most fundamental thing by which a Christian can be characterized.

c. Prayer shows dependence upon God.

d. Prayer is what is exciting about Christian living.

## III. The earmarks of true prayer.

A. The spirit of prayer.

1. This is having boldness before someone.

2. We come to God on Christ's merit, so we can come to God with boldness.

B. We have confidence from God and we receive from Him.

1. God is resourceful and likes to give.

2. God has designed prayer that we might receive from Him—it is our responsibility to give.

C. The scope of prayer: God answers whatever we ask, but not everything we ask.

1. James teaches that there are limits to what we ask.
2. There is no limit to the type of request we ask as long as it lies within the intent of prayer.
3. You do not have to pray only about religious things.

D. The conditions of prayer.

1. Not all activities are pleasing to God.
2. We must believe in Jesus Christ and love one another.
3. God asks for the right attitudes not activities.
4. Believing on God and loving one another is all one commandment—we must make repeated decisive acts counting on God's authority and power.
  - a. Prayer always moves towards love for one another.
  - b. Prayer is always dependent upon God by faith.
5. The one living in love and dependence shows he lives by the Spirit-filled life.

**Application questions:**

1. How is confidence in God the solution to self-condemnation?

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2. Will God answer all prayers as long as someone believes they will receive them? Explain.

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3. What condition of prayer do you find it most difficult to fulfill? How can God help you in this area?

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