

Praying Boldly

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 5:14-17.

B. Unanswered prayer is puzzling to many.

II. General principles of prayer.

A. Prayer is not an experiment--it is a certainty.

B. God delights in bold prayer according to His will.

1. If we ask anything according to His will, we know that He hears us.

2. Prayer must be according to God's will to be heard.

3. Prayer is a means of accomplishing the will of God.

C. There is much we can know about God's will.

1. All that we really want is available to us in the will of God.

2. Prayer is designed to obtain only that which is in the will of God.

D. We know that we are heard in prayer when it is in God's will.

E. We know that we have the request if we know that God hears us.

1. Everything we ask according to God's will is given to the believer.

2. We can give thanks because we know that the result will appear in God's timing.

3. We are to be constantly praying and giving thanks knowing that God grants it.

III. Illustration of prayer.

A. One is not to pray for the sin unto death.

B. The main point is praying for what is according to God's will and praying for what is not according to His will. God will not change His mind towards the sin unto death.

C. The sin unto death is a sin that brings about physical death.

1. Moses, Achan, Ananias and Sapphira, and others committed sins resulting in physical death. (I Corinthians 10)

2. The element that turns normal sin into this kind of sin is willful presumption despite of knowledge.

3. This is not always the result, and sometimes it comes in stages.

D. God grants life for sins that are not unto death when the believer prays.

Application questions:

1. If praying in the will of God is the key to answered prayer, how do we determine God's will?

2. When have you experienced answered prayers after having prayed with a sense of assurance that God would meet that request?

3. What is the sin unto death? Why is a believer not to pray for this?
