

## **I John 5:14-17** **Answered Prayer**

### **Introduction:**

When it comes for time for cashing a check, Donald Grey Barnhouse illustrates: most banks will not cash a check unless you have an account with them. The bank needs to know you in case the check is no good, with no money behind it. They always need collateral, there must be security to support the dollar amount on the check.

So in prayer there must be collateral in the bank of heaven. There must be a true deposit of saving faith. You can draw on the deposit of faith if you are asking in the Holy Spirit, according to God's will. If you are asking according to your desires, outside of the framework of God's will, you can be sure God will not answer your prayer.

### **I. Confidence in Prayer – v.14-15**

#### **A. Questions about prayer:**

1. Does prayer change things or does prayer merely change our disposition?
2. How should we pray?
3. What should we pray for?

#### **B. John's Postscript:**

1. Confidence in the day of Judgment – 2:28; 4:17
2. Confidence in relation to prayer – 3:21-22

#### **C. God's Promise in Prayer – v.14; John 14:13-14; John 15:7,16; 16:24**

#### **D. Qualification in Prayer**

#### **E. The Nature of Prayer – (Barclay, "Talking to God is listening to God")**

### **II. Intercessory Prayer – v.16a**

#### **A. The Content of Prayer**

1. Not to be preoccupied with ourselves – 3:17-18
2. Restoring the sinning brother – Gal. 6:1

#### **B. Remedy for entanglement with sin – I John 1:9; 2:1**

### **III. Ineffectual Prayer – v.16b**

#### **A. What exactly is the sin unto death?**

#### **B. Four Prominent Views:**

1. Some particular heinous sin which God will not pardon. (degrees of sin)
2. Apostasy- a deliberate falling away from the Christian Faith – Heb. 12:17; **Turn To: Hebrews 6:4-6**; 10:26,29; 4:20; I John 2:19
3. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit – (The unpardonable sin) Matt. 12:31-32 (Albert Barnes, John Stott)
4. Physical death – examples, Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5:1-11; Immorality – I Cor. 5:1-5; Abuse at the Lord's Supper – I Cor. 11:27-31

#### **C. Spiritual Death**

1. Anyone who does not love his brother remains in death – 3:11; 3:15
2. Jesus the omniscient One does not pray for the world or the world of unbelievers – John 17:9; II John 7

#### **D. Finally:**

Peter's denial – Luke 22:31-32, Peter did not commit the sin unto death nor could he.

