**Blessed Assurance – 1 John 3:22**

**Focal Truth: Assurance of salvation is praying with confidence to God**

1. **Prayer is coming before God confidently – 3:19 – 20**

*We know by this we are of the truth, and will assure our hearts before Him in whatever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.*

1. When we pray - we come **before God** away from all others
2. When we pray - we come **before God** who sees us & knows us
3. When we pray - we go to heaven before the throne of grace in the Spirit while we pray on earth

“Prayer is coming before God – turning our backs on everything else, excluding everything else, and coming into the presence of God” – Lloyd Jones

Heb. 4:16 – *let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace*

Heb. 10:19 – *since we have confidence to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus*

The story of the old preacher who had a rock in the woods and he went

every day to pray at that rock – it was His place to come before God

1. **Prayer is coming before God confidently asking for His help – 3:21 – 22**

*If our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God, & whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight*

1. The assured mind confidently asks God for His help

*we have confidence with God and whatever we ask we receive from Him*

* Many are fearful to ask God for what they need – “whatever”
* Many never ask God for anything
* Many worry whether God will hear & give them what they request so they never ask!
* Assured believers live in the joy of answered prayer

1. Praying is asking God for His help

John15:7 – *if you abide in Me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you*

1. Praying is asking God in faith for his help

James 1:5 – 8 - *if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double – minded man, unstable in all his ways*

James 4:2 – 3 – *you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives so that you may spend it on your pleasures*

1. Praying is asking in the will of God

1 John 5:14 – 15 - *this is the confidence we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hear us. If we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked of Him*

1. Praying is asking by the help of the Holy Spirit

Eph. 6:18 – pray at all times in the Spirit

Rom. 8: 26 -27 – the Holy Spirit helps our weakness for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words…He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God

1. **Prayer is coming before God confidently expecting He will give what is asked – 3:22**

*whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep his commandments & do the things that are pleasing in His sight*

1. Believers are confident that God will answer their requests because of their obedience & holiness before Him – 22

Keep His commandments & do the things that are pleasing in His sight

* Believers keep the commandments of the Lord Jesus
* Believers practice righteousness
* Believers love God’s people
* Believers live in the assurance of God’s acceptance of them in Christ
* Believers do not love the world – but overcome the world

1. Believers know that God hears them as they pray – 5:14 -15

5:14 -15 – *if we ask according to His will He hears us, if we know He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him*

Matt. 6:8 – *your Father knows what you need before you ask Him*

1. Believers know that God hears & gives them what they request

Matt. 6:6 – *when you pray go into your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you*

Matt. 7:7 – 8 - *ask and will be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened to you. for everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened*

**Things to remember and do**

1. Assurance of salvation produces confidence in prayer
2. Asking with confidence in prayer is the natural response of the believer
3. Expecting God to answer prayer is the confidence of the praying believer
4. God gives to His children what they ask of Him – Matt. 7:11 – *if you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will you Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**