



The Caller

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Confidence

Corner

John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* let us examine some evidence that should help us to be confident Christians who can be sure of salvation.

This is what John claims as a part of his purpose in writing, "These things I write unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life..." (1 John 5:3). In order to have the fellowship with God needed to produce the confidence of which John writes, we cannot habitually commit sin (walk in darkness 1:6), we cannot act as if sin does not affect us—rather we must confess it (1:8), and we cannot claim that we have not sinned (1:10; see also Rom. 3:10).

I once heard Jason Jackson say, "Sin is a fact of our past and a fight in the present." I think this is an extremely important and true statement that we all need to consider. We must have a proper view of how sin affects even the lives of us as Christians.

Once we understand a proper view of sin as it relates to us as Christians we can then begin to greater appreciate the truths of which John writes through inspiration. We can trust God's faithfulness to do what He has promised (forgive and cleanse us 1:9). We can realize as we strive to "walk in the light" that Christ's blood can keep on cleansing us from all sin (1:7).

Both of these promises of God that He is faithful to keep are conditional. Notice the word "if" in the passages noted above. Though such a small word, an understanding of what it means is imperative. God's promises to forgive and cleanse are conditioned upon us "walking in the light" and "confessing our sins."

Living in sin and committing sin are not the same. We as Christians may commit sin, but we have an advocate, Christ Jesus (2:1). If we will take sin seriously and strive to forsake a life of sin, we can have the greatest confidence that we will have eternal life. Thanks be to God!

jfb

"I am the light of the world,
whoever follows me will
never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."

~ John 8:12

Sunday's Sermons:

**AM — 6 Truths About God's Love
John 3:16**

**PM — Follow the Leader
1 Peter 2:21**

They Love to Talk

If you are a parent, a Sunday school teacher, a teacher in the school system, or someone else who works with little ones, I am sure you are aware that kids love to talk. Kayleigh and Brenna both tell me of the various things that your little ones say in class. As a family, we love your little ones, and sharing the things they have said so often brings smiles to our face and chuckles from our mouths. Truly as those of us who are older know, and as Art Linkletter used to say..." kids say the craziest things" (edited for Christian use).

Just today, I was with a young man who loves to tell me so many things that are important to him. This precocious seven-year-old was telling me his idea that he feels Tesla should incorporate into the design of their vehicles. He believes that among other things, the steering wheel and all pedals should be removed. This seven-year-old boy said they need to design it so that the car drives itself using sensors and satellites. It is not so much what he said but the fact that he loves to tell me the things on his mind.

That leads me to the point of this article. If we have a childlike faith, how should we feel about "talking" to God? Should we not want to share everything with Him? No one would listen as He does! The best of us humans have difficulty with attention. If a child begins talking to us if we are not careful, our mind will wander. In contrast, God hears everything we say while at the same time never missing a word from someone else who is speaking to Him at the very same time. Can that be anything short of amazing?

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Jesus Himself notes that we are to ask, and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Peter tells us to cast all our cares upon Him, for He cares for you.

Jesus did not merely give lip service to the idea of prayer. Jesus was a praying man. His prayers were such that His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray! He would arise before it was yet morning to pray!

So what can we learn from children? What can we learn from our most excellent example, Jesus? If we take a page from many children, we will want to share what we are thinking with God. Imagine sharing many times a day, your thoughts with God! What difference would that make in your life? If we follow the example of Jesus, we will recognize our need to speak with the Father! If Jesus relied upon God the Father, how much more do I need to do so?

So how about you? Do you desire to tell God everything? My prayer would be that such would be the case. Imagine the difference that speaking to God often would make in your day! I know for me it is incredible the difference in a day spent talking with God and one where I do not share my thoughts with Him. I hope I bring a smile to the face of God when I, in childlike faith, tell Him about the things on my mind!

John F Board

Elizabethtown, KY