

## **The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #14**

The Believer's Tranquilizer

I John 3:18-24

### **I. The Premise**

- A.** When love becomes action,
- B.** It reassures a condemning heart,
- C.** It gives boldness and effectiveness to prayer, and
- D.** It gives evidence of a Spirit-filled life.

### **II. The Condemning Heart VS 19**

- A.** Whenever
  - All kinds of issues
  - Satan uses to condemn us
  - I'm probably not even a Christian
- B.** Remedy
  - Know that we are of the truth
  - Justified by faith
  - By this - VS 18
  - Don't justify yourselves to others, let God do it
  - God knows our hearts, our intentions
- C.** When our hearts don't condemn us
  - No confidence in the flesh (self)
  - Confidence before God
  - To ask and receive
  - The normal Christian life
  - We have boldness before God
    - 1.** A clear path
    - 2.** In His name
  - And we receive from Him
    - 1.** His grace
    - 2.** He loves to give it
  - Whatever we ask
    - 1.** Not everything - James 4:3
    - 2.** Within the realm of prayer
  - Because we keep His commandments and do what is pleasing to Him
    - 1.** The motive and attitude of prayer

- 2.** I John 3:23
- 3.** Luke 10:27
- 4.** This is the direction
- 5.** This is the whatever

### **D.** The Spirit-filled life VS 24

- By this
  - 1.** The re-assurance of our hearts
  - 2.** Answered prayer
  - 3.** Active love
- We know He abides in us
- All from the Spirit who indwells us

### **III. Thoughts**

- A.** When worry or doubts about faith confront us the best tranquilizer is to be assured of Christ's presence in your life (the Holy Spirit) and let God empower you toward loving acts toward your brothers and sisters in Christ. Practical love shown to others gives re-assuring confidence to us.
- B.** Thinking about prayer:
  - The believer's primary activity with God
  - The spirit of prayer – boldness
  - The purpose of prayer – to receive what God has for me
  - The scope of prayer – whatever we ask for His purposes
  - The conditions – worship and love for others
- C.** Keeping our confidence or boldness before God
  - The difference between words and actions
  - Can kill our confidence
  - John reminds us that God knows us and is greater than our hearts
  - That produces boldness to ask God for what we need to show love to others (His will)
  - We are secure because of His performance not ours
- D.** That leads us to worship and a desire to please Him
  - That's our tranquilizer!