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### The Hope That Overcomes

In 1 John 5:13-21, we see the concluding thoughts and purpose statement for why John wrote his thoughts to the young church under attack. Enemies of the Gospel were promoting living any way you want without consequence. People were denying the deity of Jesus. Idolatry was all around them. Some within the church were led astray by false teachers. John wrote this letter that the believer in Jesus would have assurance of their salvation and confidence in prayer. For the one in Christ, perfect love has driven out fear. You and I are no longer bound by the power of sin but set free by our Heavenly Father's love. We don't have to fear an eternity apart from God. We receive his love by grace, through faith and are thus empowered to love others. The letter leaves us with a challenge to pray from a position of confidence in God.

- What prayers have you seen God answer recently? How does answered prayer encourage you to be confident in future prayer?
- What is the purpose of 1 John according to 5:13? Where else do you see this theme in the letter? Listen for the echo of John 20:31.
- What is the relationship between obedience, joy, and discipline in 1 John 5:13-21 in light of Galatians 6:7; Hebrews 12:5-6 and John 15:10?
- Why do you think idols are mentioned at the very end of the letter? Read 1 John 2:15-17. How are these themes repeated now in 1 John 5:13-21?
- What about your life do you sense the Lord asking you to give up that you might have greater confidence in Him?

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