

I John 5:14-15 – “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

#### CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

God does not hear prayers outside of His will. That eliminates prayers with wrong motives and prayers that are not good for us. That cancels prayers offered when we aren't living in God's will. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18). Prayers that are not in harmony with the Word of God, are ruled out. Prayer is not so much telling God what you want, as it is your willingness to accept His will. Sometimes prayer is seeking God's will. Not everything we pray for is directly revealed in the Word. God confirms His will through circumstances, people, the witness of the Holy Spirit, or a combination of those things. The Anointing in us (I John 2:20, 27), teaches us God's will. While you wait, prayer brings you closer to God. The closer you are to God, the more clearly you will discern His will. The more you discern His will, the more confidence you will have that your prayers will be answered. Confidence comes from a word meaning all-out spoken-ness or frankness. Once you know the will you can be confident in it. You can be direct with God. You can speak to Him openly about your petition. This boldness comes from knowing God hears you. That means He gives audience to you. Think of that! Esther the Queen could not approach the king's throne without specific permission, even though she was married to him. When you are willing to do God's will and pray God's will, all you have to do is show up. There is nothing that builds confidence for a Christian more than knowing God hears you and will give you what you ask in His will. If it isn't His will, He will help you not to want it or to be able to live without it. You can also ask Him for that. He will hear you.