

**"CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER"****Introduction**

1. This whole Epistle is about Assurance.
2. It ends up with "things we know" – 5.
3. These are in v.13; v.14; v.18; v.19; v.20.  
**OBSERVE**: Ours is not a religion of doubt.

**1. A WONDERFUL PROMISE TO US FOR PRAYER**

- 1) Our TEXT reassures us when we pray to God:
  - (i) 'confidence'
  - (ii) God 'heareth'
  - (iii) 'whatsoever'**APPLICATION**: We are all apt to decline in prayer in one way or another
  - drop off the habit
  - words without heart
  - hopes without faith
- 2) The heart of prayer = 'asking' God for things.  
**ILLUSTRATION**: Spurgeon's advice was food for us.
- 3) Endless encouragement:
  - (i) Abraham for Lot
  - (ii) Joshua – the sun stood still
  - (iii) Esther – the Jews' fast
  - (iv) Daniel – the lions
  - (v) the Early Church – 'place shaken'
  - (vi) Peter in prison
  - (vii) Paul – shipwrecked on the way to Rome**APPLICATION**: I beg you all to attend to this subject. Remember the fig-tree Christ cursed. It is all over the Bible: 'God hears prayer'.

**2. WHY WE NEED THIS PROMISE**

- 1) We do not listen to this promise as we should: "Ye have not because ye ask not".  
**APPLICATION**: Unbelief is our besetting sin.
- 2) We quote God's words but we do not believe them with full 'confidence':  
**ILLUSTRATION**: Praying for rain – the child with the umbrella.
- 3) In prayer, we must do two things:
  - (i) act faith
  - (ii) plead earnestly**ILLUSTRATION**: Elijah for rain.
- 4) The challenge is in this energy of soul – to believe and go on till God answers:  
**ILLUSTRATION**: Christ in Gethsemane  
Anna and Simeon
- 5) Is it possible to pray for 'nothing'?  
**APPLICATION**: In a Prayer Meeting, it is good to sort out your thoughts: "What shall I ask?"  
**DOCTRINE**: God here writes a blank cheque for his people. O let us ask – let us ask!!

**3. THINGS WE NEED TO PRAY FOR AT THIS HOUR**

- 1) Our situation is one, surely, in which we need many things from God.  
**ILLUSTRATION**: Do the angels marvel at our failure? 'Why do they not ask?'
- 2) I might mention some obvious things:
  - (i) a building for worship and a college
  - (ii) that God would give us families
  - (iii) an open door into the neighbourhood
  - (iv) to see sinner saved from the world**APPLICATION**: Does a voice say, "It is impossible"?

Surely, this voice is not from God.  
All churches need this promise at this hour.

**CONCLUSION**

O let us wrestle with God as we exercise our faith in this promise.

**PSALM**

**65: 1 - 5**

**86: 1 - 7**

**107: 7 - 9**