

# First John 3:21-24

First John 3:21 – “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;”

27 [e]	1437 [e]	3588 [e]	2588 [e]	1473 [e]	3361 [e]	2607 [e]
Agapētoi	ean	hē	kardia	hēmōn	mē	kataginōskē
21 Ἀγαπητοί ,	ἐὰν	ἡ	καρδία	ἡμῶν	ἐν	καταγινώσκη
Beloved	if	the	heart	of us	not	should not condemn [us]
Adj-VMP	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	PPro-G1P	Adv	V-PSA-3S

3954 [e]	2192 [e]	4314 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
parrēsian	echomen	pros	ton	Theon
παρρησίαν	ἔχομεν	πρὸς	τὸν	Θεόν ,
confidence	we have	toward	-	God
N-AFS	V-PIA-1P	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS

1. “**Confidence**” – *parresian* – meaning the absence of fear when speaking. *Parresian* meant to speak with boldness, openness, freedom, assurance and courage.
  - a. *Parresian* used in Greek world to describe the freedom of speech citizens of democratic city-states enjoyed. The citizens had the right to speak with candor and without fear.
  - b. Already used in 1 John 2:28, “confidence”, “boldness” when he appears instead of being ashamed.
  - c. John uses *parresian* 4x in this book:
    - i. 2x our confidence at Christ return – 2:28 and 4:17
    - ii. 2x our confidence and freedom approaching God in prayer – 3:21; 5:14
2. It is hard to have confidence in prayer when we know we are not living in the Truth.
3. Two ways of possessing confidence:
  - a. Live in obedience (1 John 3:19)
  - b. Confess known sin (1 John 1:9)
4. If our hearts continue to condemn us or our conscious continues to “feel” guilt then we can know that God is greater than our hearts and we rely on the Truth (doctrine, facts of salvation) and not on how we feel.

First John 3:22 – “and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.”

2532 [e]	3739 [e]	1437 [e]	154 [e]	2983 [e]	575 [e]	846 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]
kai	ho	ean	aitōmen	lambanomen	ap'	autou	hoti	tas
22 καὶ	ὅ	ἐὰν	αἰτῶμεν ,	λαμβάνομεν	ἀπ'	αὐτοῦ ,	ὅτι	τὰς
and	whatever	if	we might ask	we receive	from	him	because	the
Conj	RelPro-ANS	Conj	V-PSA-1P	V-PIA-1P	Prep	PPro-GM3S	Conj	Art-AFP

1785 [e]	846 [e]	5083 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	701 [e]	1799 [e]	846 [e]
entolas	autou	tēroumen	kai	ta	aresta	enōpion	autou
ἐντολὰς	αὐτοῦ	τηροῦμεν ,	καὶ	τὰ	ἀρεστὰ	ἐνώπιον	αὐτοῦ ,
commandments	of him	we keep	and	the things	pleasing	before	him
N-AFP	PPro-GM3S	V-PIA-1P	Conj	Art-ANP	Adj-ANP	Prep	PPro-GM3S

4160 [e]

poioumen

ποιοῦμεν .

we practice

V-PIA-1P

- Jesus said the same:
  - John 14:14 – “If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”
  - John 16:23 – “In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.”
  - John 15:16 – “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”
- Correctly interpreting this verse requires the inclusion of this thought written later in 1 John: “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.” – First John 5:14
  - “Confidence” in 5:14 is also *parresia*.
- Selfish requests are NOT included
- The criteria in this verse eliminates:
  - Things outside his commands
  - Things in violation of his commands
  - Anything that does not please him
- To ask things according to God’s will means:
  - Thinking: We will have to know God’s Word and be thinking God’s thoughts for us to even be able to ask something that is in agreement with him
  - Doing: We will have to be living obedient lives, sacrificially doing what is godly and holy (meaning, doing things the way God intended)
- “we keep” – *teroumen* – (present, indicative, active of *tereo*) meaning “to guard, to keep, to obey”
- “we practice” – *poioumen* – (present , indicative, active or *poieo*) meaning “to do”
- POINT: The more we grow in Christ (mature, enter into understanding, enjoy fellowship with God) the more our prayers will match the desires (plans, will, heart) of God.
- We are not earning answered prayer, but we are growing into praying the right things.

**First John 3:23 – “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.”**

2532 [e]	3778 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	1785 [e]	946 [e]	2443 [e]	4100 [e]	3588 [e]
kai	hautē	estin	hē	entolē	autou	hina	pisteusōmen	tō
<b>23</b> καὶ	αὕτη	ἐστὶν	ἡ	ἐντολὴ	αὐτοῦ ,	ἵνα	πιστεύσωμεν	τῷ
And	this	is	the	commandment	of him	that	we should believe	in the
Conj	DPro-NFS	V-PIA-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Pro-GM3S	Conj	V-ASA-1P	Art-DNS

3686 [e]	3588 [e]	5207 [e]	846 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]	2532 [e]	25 [e]	240 [e]
onomati	του	Huiou	autou	Iēsou	Christou	kai	agarōmen	allēlous
ὀνόματι	τοῦ	Υἱοῦ	αὐτοῦ ,	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ ,	καὶ	ἀγαπῶμεν	ἀλλήλους ,
name	the	Son	of him	Jesus	Christ	and	we should love	one another
N-DNS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Pro-GM3S	N-GMS	N-GMS	Conj	V-PSA-1P	RecPro-AMP

2531 [e]	1325 [e]	1785 [e]	1473 [e]
kathōs	edōken	entolēn	hēmin
καθὼς	ἔδωκεν	ἐντολὴν	ἡμῖν .
even as	he gave	[the] commandment	to us
Adv	V-AIA-3S	N-AFS	Pro-D1P

1. Interestingly, John sums up God’s COMMANDS by saying there is ONE COMMAND which is then identified as TWO COMMANDS:
  - a. We should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ
  - b. We should love one another
2. This indicates the unity of the two manifestations of God’s command, heart and deed; faith and action.
  - a. This means faith without deeds is dead. (James 2:26)
  - b. This also means “love” without the new birth his human effort, possibly even being considered evil and anti-christ. (1 John 4:8 – “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”)

**First John 3:24 – “Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”**

2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5083 [e]	3588 [e]	1785 [e]	846 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	3306 [e]	2532 [e]	
kai	ho	tērōn	tas	entolas	autou	en	autō	menei	kai	
24	καὶ	ὁ	τηρῶν	τὰς	ἐντολὰς	αὐτοῦ	, ἐν	αὐτῷ	μένει	, καὶ
And	the [one]	keeping	the	commandments	of him	in	him	abides	and	
Conj	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Art-AFP	N-AFP	PPro-GM3S	Prep	Pro-DM3S	V-PIA-3S	Conj	

846 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	2532 [e]	1722 [e]	3778 [e]	1097 [e]	3754 [e]	3306 [e]	1722 [e]
autos	en	autō	kai	en	toutō	ginōskomen	hoti	menei	en
αὐτὸς	ἐν	αὐτῷ	καὶ	ἐν	τούτῳ	γινώσκομεν	ὅτι	μένει	ἐν
he	in	him	and	by	this	we know	that	he abides	in
Pro-NM3S	Prep	Pro-DM3S	Conj	Prep	DPro-DNS	V-PIA-1P	Conj	V-PIA-3S	Prep

1473 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]	3739 [e]	1473 [e]	1325 [e]
hēmin	ek	tou	Pneumatou	hou	hēmin	edōken
ἡμῖν	, ἐκ	τοῦ	Πνεύματος	οὗ	ἡμῖν	ἔδωκεν
us	by	the	Spirit	whom	to us	he gave
Pro-D1P	Prep	Art-GNS	N-GNS	RelPro-GNS	Pro-D1P	V-AIA-3S

1. Obedience indicates our spiritual life:
  - a. 2:6 – the person who lives in God should walk as Jesus walked
  - b. 2:24 (here) – we obey commands and we live in God and God in us
  - c. 4:12 – we love one another and God lives in us
2. Spiritual maturity is indicated by obedience; Turning to obedience indicates spiritual growth.
3. Again, we are given confidence if we are failing the test of obedience: We still know that God lives in us because of the Spirit he gave us.
  - a. Also, 1 John 4:13 – “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.”

**First John 4:1 – “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”**

27 [e]	3361 [e]	3956 [e]	4151 [e]	4100 [e]	235 [e]	1381 [e]	3588 [e]
Agarētoi	mē	panti	pneumatī	pisteuete	alla	dokimazete	ta
1 Ἀγαπητοί , μὴ		παντὶ	πνεύματι	πιστεύετε ,	ἀλλὰ	δοκιμάζετε	τὰ
Beloved	not	every	spirit	believe	but	test	the
Adj-VMP	Adv	Adj-DNS	N-DNS	V-PMA-2P	Conj	V-PMA-2P	Art-ANP

4151 [e]	1487 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1510 [e]	3754 [e]	4183 [e]	5578 [e]
pneumata	ei	ek	tu	Theou	estin	hoti	polloi	pseudoprophētai
πνεύματα , εἰ		ἐκ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἐστίν ,	ὅτι	πολλοὶ	ψευδοπροφήται
spirits	whether	of	-	God	they are	because	many	false prophets
N-ANP	Conj	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-3S	Conj	Adj-NMP	N-NMP

1831 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]
exelēlythasin	eis	ton	kosmon
ἐξεληλύθασιν	εἰς	τὸν	κόσμον .
have gone out	into	the	world
V-RIA-3P	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS