                                                             CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

By Johnny Hunton

“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence before God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” (I JOHN 3:21-22) God, through His Word and the Holy Spirit pricks the hearts and consciences of believers about sin in their lives. Such moving brings God’s family members to repentance and confession. Then, this gives the privilege of coming “boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need….Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus…Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water, let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised.” (HEBREWS 4:16, 10:19, 22-23)

Now, if we are experiencing guilt, and our hearts condemn us because of unconfessed sin, we do not have

“confidence toward God” and go boldly to Him in prayer in complete assurance and faith that He will hear and answer. After repentance and confession, we are counted righteous before God and can ask and receive from Him. “The eyes of the lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

(PSALM 34:15) “The Lord is far from the wicked: but He hears the prayer of the righteous.” (PROVERBS 15:29)

God is so good to those who “do those things that are pleasing in His sight” – after repentance and confession of past sins! He is so merciful and for giving! He gladly opens up the prayer door! “Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which you know not… For I know that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall you call upon Me, and you shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you.” (JEREMIAH 33:3, 29: 11-12)

Why don’t we believers call upon the Lord more? Do we not have confidence that He will keep His promises? Let us get on with our calls! “The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear (reverence and obey) Him; He also will hear their cry, and will save them.” (PSALM 145:18-19) “Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.” (MATTHEW 7:7-8) “And all things, whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.” (MATTHEW 21:22)

The heart of God is filled with His desires that we Christians call upon Him in faith! “Therefore I say unto you (said Jesus), What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them. And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any; That your Father also

Who is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” (MARK 11:24-25) “And whatsoever you shall ask in My (Jesus) name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in My name, I will do it… If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you….Hitherto have you asked nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.” (JOHN 14:13-14, 15:7, 16:24)

Many of us lack wisdom in order to deal with life’s tough problems. Well, God is waiting for our calls: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all men liberally and upbraids not (without re-

proaching or fault-finding – Amplified Version); and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.” (JAMES 1:6-7)

CONFIDENCE AND WITH FAITH is so needed for answered prayer! “And 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 hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.” (I JOHN 5:14-15)

God’s storehouses are full, and He wants us to ask confidently in faith – that we might receive and have fullness of joy!! Why will God give us our requests? 1.) Because we are obedient 2.) Because we love the brethren 3.) Because we live holy lives 4.) Because we ask according to His will with confidence and faith.