



Pastor Jeff's Daily Devotion

Day 18

January 28, 2010

Day Eighteen

1 John 5:16-21

¹⁶If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. ¹⁷All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. ¹⁸We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ¹⁹We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true—even in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

We have a responsibility to our fellow believers. When they get caught up in a sin, we are to pray for them. The term "sin unto death" is a curious word. Since the context for this passage is believers, there must be a time when believers can sin to the point that God brings them home early. It is not stated here what it is but that it exists. This should not bring fear into our lives, because it would have to be willful and rebellious.

We also know that anyone born of God will not continue to sin. The word continue means a lifestyle. The mark of a believer is someone who wants sin out of their lives. The next verse is very important. So many fear the "evil one" and what he can do. It says here that the evil one cannot harm us because we are born of God and we are His. So much of what we need to know and understand about God is shown to us by the Spirit that lives in us.

The last phrase of the book has to do with keeping away from idols. An idol is anything that competes with God for our affections and love. Anything that is more important to us than our relationship with Him. It's not that we can't love other things, but that He is the priority.

O Lord, strengthen me to clear everything from my life that competes with You.

This finishes our devotional in I John. It continues to teach me of my relationship with God and how it works. For the remainder of our 40 days we will walk through the book of Philipians. It was a book that Paul wrote to a group of believers for the purpose of encouraging them to make a difference in the world around them. It's going to be great!



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