



## **My Failures Are Not Fatal Or Final**

**1 John 5**

### **Small Group Plan**

One of my favorite quotes by Landon Saunders is:

*It's not inhuman to fail.  
It's inhuman to deny that you fail.  
That's failing at failure.*

I like it because I know my own failures and I always have a choice as to how I will respond to them. Will I allow them to bring a final, fatal end to my spiritual growth. Or, will I trust in what John says that “we know?” Over 50 times in these 5 short chapters John uses one of two terms for “to know.” If we expand our count to include all of John’s writings the number swells to over 230. As Christians, there are some things that God wants us to “know.” What are they? Let’s explore together.

### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- When have you been most afraid of the condition of your soul?
- When have you been most confident?
- What was the essential difference between the fear and the confidence?

### **LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

#### **— PROMISE —**

**1 John 5:13**

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

- Verse 13 can be seen as a summary statement for the entire letter.
- Thinking back through the letter, what are the “things” that assure us that we “have eternal life?”

## — CONFIDENCE —

1 John 5:14-15

<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.

- What do you know about God that makes you certain that he hears you?
- What would a confident prayer sound like?

## — CHOICE —

1 John 5:16-17

<sup>16</sup> If 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. <sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

- When does sin “lead to death?”
- When does sin “not lead to death?”
- What makes the difference?

## — TRANSFORMATION —

1 John 5:18

We 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.

- What is your motivation to “not continue to sin?”
- How does Jesus — “the one who was born of God” — keep us safe?

## — WARFARE —

1 John 5:19

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

- Why are most Americans unaware of the spiritual battle going on around us?
- How real is the battle to you? Explain.

## — MINDSET —

1 John 5:20-21

<sup>20</sup> We 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. <sup>21</sup> Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

- How would you describe the new mindset that Jesus brought?
- How does this mindset help to focus your day?
- What “idols” in you life wage war against this new understanding?

### **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- What was your most confident moment in prayer? What made it confident?
- Think of when you felt forgiven in failure. What were you doing, reading, thinking?
- Allow the group members a period of silent prayer to bring their person failures before God. Pray for a heart to believe His truth rather than Satan’s lies.