



# Confidence & Boldness

A SUMMER SERIES ON THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

1 John 3:19-22, 4:17-18, 5:13-15 Luke 11:9-13

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**I'll bet you know some New Testament Greek words already.** When you learn these terms from the original language, it adds another layer of meaning, it gives you a deeper understanding, it helps you remember the concept, and it's fun to learn the exact words the Holy Spirit chose to teach a truth to us. You probably already know several New Testament Greek words.

- ⇒ For instance a couple weeks ago we learned the word *Agape*, which is the loftiest word for **love** in the New Testament. It is the word that describes God's sacrificial love for us in Christ and then our sacrificial love for other people.
- ⇒ You know the word *Amen*, which is really an Old Testament Hebrew word that is simply transliterated into the Greek New Testament. We still use the word the same way in English. Remember Martin Luther defined *Amen* as **"yes, yes, it shall be so!"** in the Small Catechism.
- ⇒ You also know the word *Hallelujah*, which means **praise the Lord**. It's another Old Testament Hebrew word that is simply transliterated into the Greek New Testament.

You know a few New Testament Greek words<sup>1</sup> . . . today let's add another word to your New Testament Greek repertoire of words. Let's add the word **Parrasia**.

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<sup>1</sup> Here are a few other New Testament Greek words that you may recognize: Logos (=word), Christ (=Messiah), Kyrie, eleison (=Lord have mercy), Parousia (=return of the King), Theos (=God), Paraclete (=comforter), Koinonia (=fellowship), Evangelical (=preach the Gospel), Anathema (=cursed), Ecclesia (=Church), and Pornia (=sexual immorality).

*Parrasia* means **boldness and confidence** in the presence of God. It has the idea that you have **direct and unlimited access** to God! Technically it means “**free speech**” -- that you can speak freely in front of an authority. You have that freedom with God through faith in His Son Jesus Christ. In Christ you are well pleasing to God; He loves you and brought you into His family. He has given you *parrasia*; you have that boldness and that confidence to come into His presence.

The apostle John uses the word in two different contexts in his epistle of 1 John. The first is that you have *parrasia*; confidence and boldness, at the **return of Christ on the Last Day**, which is also the **Day of Judgment**.

And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall **appear**, we may have **confidence**, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. 1 John 2:28

By this is God's love perfected with us, so that we may have **confidence** for the Day of Judgment. 1 John 4:17

*Parrasia* is used in both of these verses, and it means that you have confidence and boldness at the **return of Christ on the Last Day**, which is also the **Day of Judgment**. For most people, Judgment Day is a day of terror and fright, for their sins will be exposed, their guilt pronounced, and they will be judged and condemned in their unbelief.

**But not so for you!**

Through faith in Christ, you have *parrasia*; confidence and boldness in the presence of Christ when He returns in glory on the Last Day. Your sins have been taken away by the Son of God; Jesus was judged and condemned for you when He died on the cross, and in His resurrection from the dead on the third day you are declared **righteous: not guilty** of your sins. Ever since your Baptism, you have heard words of **Absolution**: the formal announcement that your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are in a **perfect relationship** with God! That doesn't change on the Last Day! You will hear the same verdict of **righteousness** on the Day of Judgment! One last time you will hear the words of **Absolution**: that your sins are forgiven,

your guilt has been paid for, and you will live forever in God's heavenly Kingdom because of the Lord Jesus Christ!

That is why you have **parrasia, confidence and boldness** at the **return of Christ on the Last Day**, which is also the **Day of Judgment**. In Christ, your sins are forgiven, you have a good, clean and clear conscience! A good, clear and clear conscience gives you **parrasia**!

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 1 John 3:21

A good, clear and clear conscience gives you **parrasia**! In fact rather than dreading the Last Day, and living in terror of Judgment Day, **we are looking forward to it!** It's a day of great joy for us who believe in Christ! If anything, it's like Homecoming Day for us<sup>2</sup>! On the Last Day, you will *see Christ face to face*, with your own eyes! It's the day of the *Resurrection of the dead* and the *great reunion of our loved ones* who have died in Christ! **God's love is perfected in you in this: you have parrasia on the Day of Judgment** (1 John 4:17).

The Apostle John also teaches us that we have **parrasia, confidence and boldness**, in prayer.

This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14

You have **parrasia, confidence and boldness**, in prayer. The Lord God Almighty, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, invites you into His presence through prayer. You know Him as your Father in heaven, through faith in Christ, and that He loves you and cares about every detail of your life<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> There is another New Testament word you may know that describes this: Maranatha! It is a transliterated Aramaic phrase used in 1 Corinthians 16:22 that means "Our Lord, Come!" Really, "Maranatha!" is a bold confession of the "parrasia" you have in Christ on the Last Day and the Day of Judgement! With Passasia, bold confidence in Christ and His righteousness, we joyfully and longingly cry Maranatha!, "Our Lord Come!"

<sup>3</sup> Remember how Martin Luther teaches it in the Small Catechism: "God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him with all **boldness and confidence**, as children ask their dear father." Your Father in Heaven welcomes you into His presence at any time to talk about anything!

One of the gifts of salvation that is given to you is *parrasia*, **confidence and boldness**, to approach God in prayer. You have *unrestricted and authorized access to God*. No one in the Old Testament times could ever approach God like you can now in these New Testament times<sup>4</sup>! You have *unrestricted, unlimited, direct and authorized access to God* every moment of every day of your life. You know He loves you, and promises to be with you and help you. He has promised to use His mighty power on your behalf and for your benefit: to bring joy to you, to answer prayer, and to make all things work for good in your life. You are welcomed in the presence of the King of Heaven with *parrasia*, **confidence and boldness**!

Because of Jesus, who forgives you and cleanses you from your sins, you can now **boldly approach** God with **confidence**! There is no fear: your sins are forgiven, your conscience is clean, and you belong to God. You have *unrestricted and unlimited access to your God and King in Heaven*! The apostle John highlights that this happens to you in two ways:

⇒ Every time you **pray** you have unrestricted and unlimited access to you Father in heaven; and

⇒ On the **Last Day**, when Jesus returns in great glory, you have *confidence and boldness*. You have *parrasia* **on the day of judgment**!

Amen!

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<sup>4</sup> This even includes even Abraham, Moses, and David! No High Priest, no Prophet, no Judge, and no King ever had this kind of unrestricted and direct access to God in the Old Testament! But YOU DO through faith in Christ! It is an unbelievable gift that God has given to you! You have unhindered access to the Lord God Almighty: your Father, your Savior, and your Comforter!

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God the Father in heaven,  
we thank you for giving us *parrasia* through  
faith in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the *boldness and confidence* we have in prayer, knowing that You invite us into your presence, care deeply about us, and promise to be with us and to help us.

We also look forward to the Last Day, the return of Jesus in great glory.

Give us *parrasia* on that Day, the *confidence and boldness* of forgiveness righteousness, and life on the Day of Judgment.

We pray all these things in the Name of Jesus, our only Savior and Lord, Amen!

## 1 John 2:28-29

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him.

## 1 John 3:19-22

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

## 1 John 4:17-18

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

## 1 John 5:13-15

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

## Luke 11:9-13

Jesus said, "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"