914 1 JOHN We   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 land if we know that he heareth   
 us whatsoever we ask, we know that \and if we know that he   
 we have the petitions that we have hear us, whatsoever we   
 If any see his ask, we know that we have   
 brother sinning a sin not unto death, the petitions that we de-   
 my asked shall ask, and \*shall give him sired of him. If any   
 life for them that sin not unto death. man see his brother sin a   
 sin which is not uato death,   
 he shall ask, and he shall   
 give him life for them that   
 “cerning it 71 do not say that con- sin not unto death. There   
 WaAll un- is @ sin unto death: I do   
 S iaewihl make request. not say that he shall pray   
 ach ti, \for it, 17 All unrighteous-   
   
 view. In this view he goes still further This bestowal of life by intercessory   
 in the next verse). 15.] And if we prayer, is not to be minutely engnired   
 know that He heareth us whatsoever we into, whether it is to be accompanied with   
 ask (i.c. our every petition: the condition fraternal rebuke,—whether it consists in   
 is omitted this tine, as being supposed to the giving to the sinner a repentant heart,   
 be fulfilled), know that we have the but taken as put by the Apostle, in   
 petitions (i. c. the things which form the all its shnplicity and breadth. Zife, viz.   
 subject of the petitions) which we have the restoration of that divine life from   
 asked from Him (notice the present, we which by any act of sin he was indeed in   
 have, combined with the perfect, we have peril and indeed in process of falling, but   
 asked, The perfect reaches through all his sin was not an actual fall) for them   
 our past prayers to this moment. All that sin not unto death (the clanse takes   
 these we have: not one of them is lost: up and emphatically repeats the hypothesis   
 He has heard, He has answered them all: before made, viz., that the sin of the bro-   
 we know that we have them in the truest ther is not unto death. It does so in the   
 sense, in possession). plural, because the him before being inde-   
 16, 17.] Join together the confidence finite, all cases are now collected in a   
 concerning prayer just expressed, and the class: “shall give this life, I repeat, to   
 all-essential Christian principle brotherly those who sin not unto death”), There   
 love, and we have following as matter of is a sin unto death: concerning it I do   
 course, the duty, and the practice, of in- not say that he should make request   
 tercession for an erring brother. And of (leaving for the present the great question,   
 this, with a eertain not strictly defined 1 will touch the minor points in this verse.   
 limitation, these verses treat. man First, it necessarily by the conditions of   
 see (on any occasion: “shall have seen”) the context involves what is equivalent to   
 his brother (as throughout the Epistle, to a prohibition. This has been denied by   
 be taken in the stricter sense: not any many Commentators. “Ask if thou wilt,   
 neighbour, but his Christian brother, one in uncertainty of obtaining,” says Corne-   
 born of Ged ns he is himself) sinning lius-a-lapide. And it is equally denied,   
 (this present participle is net merely pre without the same implied meaning being   
 ative, but graphic, as describing the « bre- given, by many others: some of these, as   
 ther? actually in the act and under the Neander, thinking it implied, that prayer   
 bondage of the sin in question) a sin not. may be made, though the obtaining of it   
 unto death (sce below), he shall ask (the will be difticult,—others, as De Wette, that   
 not mere! it will be in vain, others, as Huther, that   
 ask, “it shall be lawful for him to a: St.John simply says such a ease was not   
 but a command, taking for granted’ the within his view in making the abeve com-   
 thing enjoined as that which is to happen), mand. And most ef even these who have   
 and shall give him life (viz. the asker recognized the prohibition, strive to soften   
 shall give: net, as many have understood it, saying, as e.g. Lyra, that though “we   
 it, God shall give him life, though of are not to pray for the condemned,” yet we   
 conrse this is so reality : but the words may pray for such a sinner, “that he may   
 mean, he, interceding for his brother, shall sin less, and so be less in hell :”   
 be the means of bestowing life on him, or as Bengel, “God willcth not that the