



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Where is Your Confidence?

Message preached on Sunday Morning, September 22, 2024

We live in a period of time that shouts, “believe in yourself”...have “self-confidence”.

You can do it!

“I’m good enough. I’m strong enough. And dog gone it, people like me.”

QUESTION: How much confidence do you have in yourself?

If you really put your effort to it...YOUR SKILL to it...how much can you get done?

At the surface level...it is not horrible thinking...yet, when you begin teaching people to **simply trust in themselves** or have **confidence in themselves**...you are setting them up for **an insufficient supply** of what God has for them.

I can sit back and say, “Well, I’m a good preacher. I can a good singer and have amazing instrumentalist behind me. We are friendly. Why can’t we grow!”

Psalm 127:1 – “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

BELOVED: When our confidence is in our abilities and our strengths...we will always stop short of God’s best for our lives.

Isaiah 64:6 – Our righteousness is as filthy rags.

Philippians 3:1-10

There were people who were circumcised (former Jews) who were putting their confidence in their circumcision...

PERHAPS: Talk about going to church, tithing, sowing, reading Bible, etc.

Those things are important...but NOT where we hang our hats.

NOTE: When your confidence is directed correctly, then those things will be an outflow of your confidence instead of the reason for your confidence.

Paul had all the reason to have confidence in his flesh.

But having confidence in Christ and what He did...brings success.

Philippians 1:6 – “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NASB)

4 Such is the confidence we have toward God through Christ.

5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves so as to consider anything as having come from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Hebrews 4:16 (NASB) – “Therefore let’s approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.”

Hebrews 10:19 (NASB) – “Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,”

NOTICE: Looking at these verses, it has nothing to do with HOW GOOD WE’VE BEEN...but WHAT GOD has done! What Christ has done!

Our confidence is in what Christ has done.

AGAIN: If you have confidence...you have confidence in what He tells you to do. So this doesn’t give you permission to NOT do stuff (I don’t need to tithe or give or go to church)...but it gives you confidence to do it with FAITH and assurance.

Your obedience doesn’t come out of trying to earn anything...but out of confidence.

THOUGHT: The Lord was speaking to me about the need for passion for the house and the things of God. Not just obedience.

Obedience is awesome!

But when you begin giving and doing because of the passion of God (Psalm 69:9 – David)...when if is more than obedience, but ZEAL and PASSION...that is where you step into the over flow.

Your GENEROSITY accesses God’s GENEROSITY and His generosity is endless.

Where is your confidence?

QUESTION: If what God is calling you to do is outside your skill set...will you still do it?

QUESTION: If God asks you to give outside of your comfort zone...will you do it?

BELOVED: If your vision only includes what you have the ability to do...it isn’t from God.

Hebrews 10:35-38

35 Cast not away therefore ***your confidence***, which hath great recompence of reward.
“Recompense” – reward or wage paid – confidence has a wage

36 For ye have need of patience, that, ***after ye have done the will of God***, ye might receive the promise.

QUESTION: What is the wage? Receiving the promise!

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Where is your confidence?

THINK ABOUT IT: Is it easy to believe for God for increase, when you can just work overtime and make extra money? What about when they take away overtime?

THINK ABOUT IT: Is it easy to believe God for healing, when you can just change the way you eat and it will be cool? What about when changing things don’t matter?

Where is your confidence?

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (perhaps read)

Where was his confidence? Everything else had failed! He looks further away from the manifestation than ever...YET HE IS REJOICING!

Vs. 19 – Confidence in God.

David Knew Where His Confidence Was

Psalm 23:1-6

NOTICE: vs. 4 – When I am walking through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil...why?
Because I can run fast? Because I am strong? I brought a gun or bow-n-arrow?

ANSWER: For thou art with me...thy rod and staff they comfort me...I know...

Vs. 5 – You have a table loaded for me (in the presence of my enemies)...they can watch, they can't devour!

Vs. 5 – You anoint my head with oil.

TALK about the importance of renewing your mind to the flies and gnats swarming and trying to set up residence in side your head.

Where is your confidence?

David knew about these enemies.

- He saw them when lions and bears tried to attack his sheep...He was their shepherd who they had confidence in.
- He knew about these BIG BATTLES, like Goliath...but where did David find his confidence in? The covenant with Yahweh! "This uncircumcised Philistine." Not in his sling-shot skills! Remember...he refused the armor of man...took up the armor of God.
- He REALLY knew these enemies when it came to Saul.
Saul didn't want David back tending his father's sheep...He wanted him dead. EVEN Jonathan couldn't deny that. Saul was pursuing David to kill him.

Psalm 18:4-6 – This brought distress upon David.

4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

- Saul was an extension of his covenant with Jonathan.
- Saul was the king...pray for them...touch not God's anointed.
- He couldn't do what he did to Goliath and other enemies...his hands were tied.

Psalm 18:1-3 – Tells us EXACTLY where David put his confidence.

1 I will love thee, O LORD, **my strength**.

2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Where is David's confidence?

Vs. 2 explains David's focus and confidence.

"In whom I will trust" – confide (confidence)

What is his focus? Why is He his confidence?

a.) **Rock – to be lofty**

Psalm 61:2 – "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: **lead me to the rock that is higher than I.**"

IN OTHER WORDS: He puts you on a raised up...where they can see you, but cannot touch you. Out of reach of the enemy.

Psalm 23:5 – "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...." (elevated place)

Psalm 31:19 (NLT) – “How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, ***blessing them before the watching world.***”

b.) Fortress – defense, strong place

A place so strengthened that an enemy cannot even come close.

Exodus 23:25 – “And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.”

Psalm 91:7 – “A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; ***but it shall not come nigh thee.***”

c.) Deliverer – Escape to safety

Makes a way...even when there seems to be no way

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

d.) My God

Psalm 56:9 – “When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; **for God is for me.**”

There is something awesome about knowing God as MY GOD and not someone else’s God...not Pastor Thad’s God...not Kenneth Copeland’s God...but MY GOD! Confidence!

e.) Strength – this word is a jagged cliff

Safe for you, but not those who would come after you.

Isaiah 54:17 – “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and ***every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.*** This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.”

How about Haman’s Gallows (in Esther)...created for Mordecai, but was used for Haman!

f.) My buckler – shield

Protection...only lets good stuff in.

Psalm 5:12 – “For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou ***compass him as with a shield.***”

Ephesians 6:16 – “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

g.) Horn of Salvation

“***horn***” – strength

“***salvation***” yeshua – liberty, deliverance, prosperity, safety, health

BELOVED: It’s JESUS!

Luke 1:69 (speaking of Jesus) – “And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;”

The work that Jesus did...was enough.

h.) High Tower – high fort, so high you are secure and safe

Proverbs 18:10 – “The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”

NOT ONLY SAFE: But perfect for attacking the enemy with our weapons!

BELOVED: This was David’s confidence!

QUESTION: What was his result?

Psalm 18:7 starts it all...

NOTICE: It got God upset when anything went after His people...but it brought about REWARD when David took his confidence in Him.

Psalms 18:17-19

- 17 **He delivered me** from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.
- 18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the **LORD was my stay** (protector or sustenance).
- 19 He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

Conclusion

Where is your confidence?

Does it end where your ability ends?

Or does your inability only make you MORE confident, because that means it is all God?

When you are on your own...there will be the time where you slip and move, because it is too much for you.

HOWEVER: Ephesians 6:15 – “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”
“**Gospel**” – the REWARDS of the Good News. The goodness of God!