

God-Confident or Self-Confident

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Day One

Here's an interesting question: Do you think God wants you to face your world, your life, with unwavering confidence? Is there anything to be gained by lacking confidence? What message does it send if you and I, as Christ-followers, appear uncertain or doubtful? Does that bring glory to God?

On the other hand, does it bring glory to God if you have the kind of self-confidence the world says is necessary? This confidence is proud and self-focused, self-assured and braggadocious? It brings glory to yourself.

We certainly need confidence. But putting a lot of it in yourself is risky, because it's undependable. You can feel confident one day or about one thing, and then the rug gets pulled out from under you the next day and there goes that self-confidence out the door.

It's God-confidence you and I need, not self-confidence. His confidence makes a difference in the way we live and our ability to do what God put us here to do. And it will look different on each of us. However, there are certain things we must be confident of to face life with God-confidence. I want to share some necessary tools for the God-confident woman.

The first tool you need is to be totally confident of your faith.

Confident in your relationship to God through Jesus

I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day (2 Timothy 1:12b).

Confident in God's sovereignty

For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth (Psalm 71:5).

Confident in God's love

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

Confident God will never leave you or forsake you

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b).

Confident that God answers prayer

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us (1 John 5:14).

Now, if you are confident of those things, then you have the foundation for God-confidence. That's where it begins.

Day Two

The second tool you need to be God-confident is to know how God sees you. God wants you to be confident in how he has gifted you and how he wants to use you.

Let's begin by affirming what God has said about us:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well (Psalm 139:13-14).

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand (John 10:28).

Have you ever looked at yourself in the mirror and said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made"? Or "I am safe in the hand of Jesus—no one can snatch me out of his hand"?

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love (John 15:9).

Have you ever declared: "I am the one Jesus loves"? God-confidence depends on being totally confident of who you are in Christ. But it doesn't come in one swoop—it comes through getting to know God better and better.

You have been gifted to do something good for the Kingdom.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (Ephesians 2:10 NASB).

When you're willing to take the next steps where God is leading you, to do those good works he prepared for you, then you can be *confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus* (Philippians 1:6). That is God-confidence!

Day Three

As Christ-followers, the Bible says we should put no confidence in the flesh. It's pretty undependable. But you can and should be totally God-confident. Confident that you have become a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ and confident that God has good plans for you—good works for you to do which he determined before you were born.

There's nothing to be gained by being constrained and handcuffed by a lack of confidence. James put it this way:

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do (James 1:6 – 8).

James says if you're blown and tossed—like happens with lack of confidence—you are unstable in all your ways. You need confidence to be what God created you to be and do the good works he put you here to do. And the confidence you need is not self-confidence, but rather it is God-confidence.

What is hindering you from this God-confident life? Many times, it is the constant thought you simply are not good enough. Thoughts like: you've sinned too much; your past is too bad; you can never be worthy. You know where that comes from, don't you? Satan will tell you lies about yourself, like thinking you're not good enough. But remember this wonderful truth.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

Whether condemnation is coming at you from others or yourself, you are believing a lie because God never deals with us through condemnation—making us feel unworthy and without hope. The Holy Spirit who indwells every believer will convict you of sin for the purpose of helping you repent and get rid of the drag on your spiritual life. But God never deals with you through condemnation; that's what the enemy tries to do.

When the enemy is successful at destroying your God-confidence by his sneaky and sinister words of condemnation, he is keeping you from the joy of the Lord, which is your strength, and from the abundant life Jesus died to give you. You're missing all the good stuff!

But there's hope in Jesus!

Day Four

What is hindering you from having God-confidence? Being confident in yourself is very risky because pretty soon that self will let you down. But being confident in God—who he is and how he sees you—is a firm foundation that holds up no matter what.

What is keeping you from having this God-confidence?

Could it be a sin you haven't confessed and forsaken?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us (Hebrews 12:1).

Do you give up too easily and too quickly?

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him (James 1:12).

Is your past imprisoning you?

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

Are you afraid to fail?

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7).

Has the enemy of your soul succeeded in making you feel unworthy, or keeping you burdened with sins which God forgave? I want to encourage you today to claim your right—your inheritance—as God's son or daughter. You have God's Spirit, and His Spirit makes it possible for you to be God-confident. His confidence is powerful, loving, and self-disciplined. Are you "taking advantage" of what is yours through God's Spirit? Are you aware of the Spirit's presence and the power you have as a result?

Day Five

The question today is: How can you become a God-confident woman or man?

First, you must continue to grow in your knowledge of Jesus and the Word by making them a daily priority in your life. There's no "secret sauce" here. It is back to the basics of saturating your life with the truth that comes only from God's Word. This is written Word—the Bible—and the Word made flesh, dwelling among us—Jesus Christ.

As you continue to know God better, you build spiritual muscles which results in God-confidence. Then, most likely, God will give you an opportunity to do something that will be too big and too hard for you to do. Are you willing to step out of your comfort zone and follow the Lord, even if you are a bit fearful? I find when God calls me to serve in a new way, I'm always in over my head. But he who calls us to a new service gives us what we need. That's what we call walking by faith not by sight.

What are your gifts and abilities you have not yet used in serving the Lord? Find ways to use them. He didn't gift you just so you could get a good job and earn more money. He wants to you to serve others.

Never compare yourself to others. You don't have to do what someone else does or measure up to someone else's expectations. But you will need to step out on faith and follow God's leading.

Then you will be confident of this:

...that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

You will be living in God-confidence, and it will be amazing. It will be tiring, yes, and not always easy but always fruitful and satisfying. And the joy of the Lord will be your strength.