

Where is Your Confidence

Scripture:

1 John 5:14 "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

Introduction:

In today's society we hear much about self-confidence. Without it, not much positive can be accomplished, and success is only fleeting. The dictionary describes self-confidence this way: **Self-confidence** (Self'-con"fi*dence) (?), n. The quality or state of being self-confident; self-reliance. The bookstores are filled with books by many different authors telling us how to gain self-confidence. You can also find numerous sites on the internet that advertise methods to gain self-confidence. As important as self-confidence is, do we, as Christians, really need to make our focus the building of self-confidence? Or do we need to discover what confidence is and then who to put our confidence in.

Confidence is described as follows: con•fi•dence (kon'fi-duns), —n. full trust; belief in the powers, trustworthiness, or reliability of a person or thing: *We have every confidence in their ability to succeed.*

So, as Christians, we must decide where we will place our confidence. Will it be in ourselves, in other people, or in God?

I. Will we place our confidence in God, or in man?

Psalm 118:1-9 "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. ²Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures forever." ³Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy endures forever." ⁴Let those who fear the LORD now say, "His mercy endures forever." ⁵I called on the LORD in distress; The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place. ⁶The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? ⁷The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me. ⁸It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man. ⁹It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes."

- A. God is good (vs. 1). The very basic character of God is goodness.
- B. The basic character of man is in need of transformation or redemption.
- C. God's mercy endures forever. How long does man's mercy endure?
- D. God's mercy calls for a confession of confidence from His people.
 1. I've got confidence that His mercy endures forever. Hallelujah.
 2. I've got confidence in God that no matter how bad things get, I can call on Him and He will answer.

"Grandpa walked into the family room and found his little grandson, Jeffy, standing up in his playpen, crying. "He looked so pitiful, standing there in his little baseball T-shirt and diaper. His face was red and tear-stained from crying. When Jeffy saw his grandpa, his face lit up in a way that smote the old man's heart. He immediately reached up his chubby little hands in supplication. "Out Papa, out!" "What grandpa could resist such a plea? Not this one! He walked over to the playpen and reached down to lift his little buddy out of captivity and distress. "Just then, however, Law and Order stepped into the room. "Jeffy's mother walked out of the kitchen with a dishtowel in her hand and spoke sternly. "No, Jeffy! You are being punished. You have to stay in bed! Leave him right there, Dad." "Oh, fine. Now what's a grandpa to do? His grandson's tears and reaching little hands tugged mightily at his heart- but he didn't want to interfere with a mother's discipline either. "He couldn't stand staying in the same room with the boy, reading his newspaper and pretending to

be aloof. Nor could he turn around and walk out the door without feeling like a betrayer to his little pal. What could he do?

“Love found a way. “Since Grandpa couldn’t take Jeffy out of the playpen, he climbed in with him. “If you’re in the playpen, Buddy, I’m in the playpen. What’s your sentence? How long are you in for?” And finding a big, jolly grandpa suddenly filling his little prison cell, the little boy found comfort even in his captivity.”...

3. Man cannot always be trusted in when the going gets rough.

Proverbs 25:19 “Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.”

E. I can have confidence in God because He is on my side.

F. I can have confidence in God because He is for me, not against me.

II. I cannot place confidence in my own flesh.

Philippians 3:1-14 “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. ²Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! ³For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, ⁴though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

A. Not putting confidence in the flesh enables me to worship God in spirit and in truth.

B. I worship Him because of everything He has done. I have nothing to boast of.

C. Confidence in God enables me to press on because I know that no matter how many times I fail, He is faithful.

III. Because I have confidence in God I hang in there when things don't go exactly as I want them to.

Hebrews 10:35-38 *“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷“For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. ³⁸Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”*

- A. Blessings come when we hold on to our confidence in God.
- B. Confidence in God always demands patience. Will we keep confidence while we wait?
- C. Confidence in God is equated with faith.

IV. Confidence in God is maintained when we keep our hearts clean before God.

I John 3:19-22 *“And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. ²⁰For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²²And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”*

- A. We might need a lot of books or seminars to develop our self-confidence, but we only have to keep our heart right to develop our confidence in God.
- B. When our confidence in self has totally failed, God is greater than our failure.
- C. Living by the word of God is the only true way to live a confident life.

Psalms 20:7 *“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”*