

Talk It Over

STAY POSITIVE Three Truths To Build Your Confidence

SMALL TALK

1. What's something about you or your life that you have some healthy confidence about?
2. What's something you're not confident about?

VIEWPOINT

3. What are some problems with self-confidence? (Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 26:41; Romans 7:15).
4. Contrast Self-Confidence with David's confidence as described in Psalm 71:5, and 1 Samuel 16:13; 17:33-37; 17:45-47. Where did David's confidence come from?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Have your insecurities ever kept you from obeying God or following your dreams? What happened?
6. How would your life look different if you shifted your focus from self-confidence to God-confidence?
7. Three truths help build our God-confidence: believing God is always for us, God always helps us, and God is still working in us. Do you have difficulty believing any of those truths? Talk about it.

MAKING PROGRESS

8. One of our core statements is: "Love God Wholeheartedly." What are some ways you can become more confident in God and the work He's doing in your life this week?

June 28, 2020

STAY POSITIVE

3-Three Truths To Build Your Confidence

What undermines your confidence?

- Lately, I've had to do a lot of Zoom, which are online virtual meetings. Everyone in the group is on the screen in video panels. Can I just say. It is great that we have this tool at this time, but I'd much rather meet in person. Zoom undermines my confidence. One of the stupid things about Zoom is that I become distracted by one of the people on the screen. My own image. There I am, and I look different than in a mirror. Maybe it's the lighting. I look OLD!
- Then I think, I shouldn't be looking at myself. That's stupid. And I'm right, that is stupid.
- Let me ask you, Is there anything you would like to change about your appearance? I'd like to change this loose flap of skin on my neck that casts this new shadow in Zoom. All I'm saying is that our confidence can be undermined by such petty things. Don't you agree?
- Sometimes it doesn't take much.

What undermines your confidence?

- **Sometimes it isn't petty things.** Hasn't the News lately undermined your confidence? Boy, howdy. Do you ever feel like, "What's next?" Doesn't it feel like things are spinning out of control? There is a lot going on. Doesn't it undermine your confidence a bit? It sure does mine. **I feel so small, and inadequate. Don't you?**

Let's talk now about confident people.

You have met confident people. But have you noticed that with some people, as you get to know them, you realize that they aren't

as confident as they might appear. Have you noticed that in some people their confidence is a false bravado, kind of a false front that hides what they are really feeling about themselves which is a set of significant insecurities.

Certainly, that's not everyone. There are other confident people. Too confident for our liking sometimes. They seem arrogant. They think they can do anything. Do you like being with that kind of person. Yeah, me neither. It seems like they think "they are all that and a bag of chips."

The best kind of confident person, in my book is someone who I don't necessary think, "Now that person is really confident". No. It just seems like they come across as really kind. They come across as really comfortable with who they are. So comfortable that when we spend time with them they make us feel good to be with them. How do they do it? They listen to us. Validate us. They treat us like we are important to them. That's kind of a humble place, but wow there is such a strength of confidence there that isn't all about themselves.

They don't need to post stuff about themselves. They don't puff themselves up. They love deeply. They shine. They are great people to be around. They are positive people but it seems so authentic. They listen well. They enjoy life. That's the kind of confidence we need. Where does that come from?

To get at this let's describe some important clarifications.

- **We don't need more SELF-CONFIDENCE.**
- **We need to cultivate more GOD-CONFIDENCE.**

1 Corinthians 10:12 MSG ...Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.

Why not be Self-Confident?

- **My heart is deceitful.** (Jeremiah 17:9)
- **My flesh is weak.** (Matthew 26:41)
- **My behavior is inconsistent.** (Romans 7:15)

- **My heart is deceitful;** it is prone to wander. I have a tendency to want the wrong things, lean the wrong direction, take the self-defensive posture, or self-serving solution. When I'm in the wrong space I lean towards selfishness and self-centeredness, and it isn't very attractive, or magnetic.
- **My Flesh is weak.** Maybe deep down I want to do right most of the time, but my flesh is weak. My flesh is the apostle Paul's way of describing my self centered patterns and habits that cause me to be weak and easily tempted, even when the better part of me wants to do the right thing.
- **My behavior is inconsistent.** I find myself usually justifying myself based on my good intentions, but my actual track record...is not that great to justify my behavior by intentions. I'm much more inconsistent than my intentions I talk about are like. I say stuff like, "I didn't mean it that way." I really meant it in a good innocent way. But did I? Actually I'm rather inconsistent. Moods, and weaknesses, patterns, and selfishness comes out more than I'd like to admit. I am by no means consistently good.

It's enjoyable to see this kind of thing even in cartoons.

Here's a Calvin and Hobbes Cartoon

We often tell ourselves we are doing good but.....



[Cartoon on the screen]

Calvin: I'm getting nervous about Christmas.

Hobbes: You're worried you haven't been good?

Calvin: That's just the question. It's all relative. What's Santa's definition? How good do you have to be to qualify as good? I haven't killed anybody. That's good, right? I haven't committed any felonies. I didn't start any wars. ... Wouldn't you say that's pretty good? Wouldn't you say I should get lots of presents?

Hobbes: But maybe good is more than the absence of bad.

Calvin: See, that's what worries me.

Contrast this with David's statement

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

THREE TRUTHS TO HELP BUILD YOUR GOD-CONFIDENCE

(Truths we need to recognize, remember, and internalize...)

BECAUSE OF JESUS:

1. *My God is always FOR ME.*

Romans 8:31 NIV ... If God is for us, who can be against us?

How do we know God is for us? He sent his Son for us. He sent his son to die for our sins to make a way for us. God held nothing back to make our rescue possible. He is for us.

Hebrews 10:35 (NIV) So do not throw away your confidence; it

will be richly rewarded.

The confidence he is talking about is confident trust in God.

Now why would anyone throw away their confidence?

Why would anyone throw away their confident trust in God? It happens often.

- People do this when things don't go their way, when things don't go as expected.
- People do this—they throw their confidence away when they encounter opposition. When peers ridicule what you believe in and stand for, it can shake your confidence! You forget that this is normal. We expect everything to be easy and smooth. But it wasn't for Jesus, and he told us it wouldn't be easy and smooth for us either.
- When people get mad at you when you are doing the right thing, it can shake your confidence. The point is don't chuck your confidence just because things are tough. When things are tough is exactly when you need to actively place all your confidence in God, his character, his track record, and his promises! Place your confidence in God. Your confident trust in God will never be wasted or lost on God.
- Don't throw away your confident trust in God!!! Lean in more!

2. My God always HELPS ME.

Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV ... “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” ...

3. My God is always WORKING IN ME.

Philippians 1:6 NIV ... being confident of this, that he [God] who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Gospel presentation...

There are a lot of you right now that you do not feel confident in your standing with God. Maybe your approach has been *"Well, I needed to try to be a better person. If I'm better, then maybe I'll be good enough."*

The reality is, and I hope you'll hear this, there is no such thing as any of us ever being **good enough** for God by our own effort to be good.

There's only one person who was ever good enough for God and that was God's own son, Jesus, who didn't sin.

In many ways we **should feel insecure because we are not perfect, we are not holy. Every single one of us we're actually not good people without God.** We are sinful people. Our sin separates us from a Holy God.

The good news is that we can have confidence in the goodness of God who did something for us that we could never ever earn and we certainly don't deserve. In his love God sent his son Jesus, who was perfect in every way, who died in our place on the cross, so that anyone who calls on his name can be washed clean, forgiven, and by his life, entering into our life, he begins a transforming work from the inside out.

Listen to me, there are those of you this is the very reason you're here today. You don't know where you stand with God. Please hear this. You can have a full confidence and assurance that Jesus is risen from the dead that when you put your faith in him every sin you've ever committed will be forgiven by God. You will be made brand new. That is why many of you are here today and you know God is bringing you to a point of change. For a point of change you need to say yes to God. You need to submit to him. He is king. You are not king, not even of your own kingdom. We are all discovering through a pandemic, and through

turmoil, that we are not in charge. We need a savior. Left to ourselves we make a mess of relationships. Our own thought life isn't pretty. We need a savior, and a king worth saying yes to, and pledging our allegiance and trust and following what he says and does. Maybe today is the day for you to say "Yes, today by faith I want to surrender to him. I want to believe with all my heart that this is who he is, that he has forgiven me, and that I am made new. By faith today I surrender to Jesus. I give my life to him.