

Confident in Our Faith

Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. Do we really understand what that means? Living in a way where we frame everything in this life for the life to come is the essence of that passage. To do so is going to require the greatest amount of cooperation with and surrender to God. Are we allowing ourselves to be rooted? Are you a strong Christian? If you spent time with a strong Christian, what would you see? Great habits. Great Thoughts. In today's lesson we'll talk about how well rooted Christians are confident.

I. It is vitally important to be confident in the faith.

- A. Not arrogance ... but confidence in God, His word, and His promises.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:58: *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor **in the Lord** is not in vain.*
 - 2. Ephesians 4:14: *Then we will no longer be **little children**, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.*
- B. We need to be confident.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 1:12: *But I am not ashamed, because **I know** whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.*
 - 2. If you aren't confident – you aren't strong. You are not deeply rooted.
 - 3. Confidence is vital!
 - a) John 3.19: the world is not friendly to the Christian.
 - b) Philippians 2:15: *so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you **shine** like stars in the world,*
 - c) 1 Peter 4:14: We will not "fit in" with the world.

II. How do we gain confidence?

- A. Trust the Word
 - 1. More study leads to stronger conviction. Conviction leads to courage.
 - 2. In the Word are continual promises of assurance. He has made a covenant with us.
 - a) Despite our weakness and sinfulness.
 - b) Romans 7.15: *For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but I do what I **hate**.*
 - c) Romans 7:19: *I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do.*
 - d) Perfection is not attainable as long as we are in the flesh.
 - 3. Living with constant feelings of guilt does not inspire confidence.
 - 4. We've been set free, Romans 8.1: *Therefore, there is now **no** condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, ... When we sin we have an advocate, 1 John 2.1-2, Jesus the Christ, the righteous one.*
- B. Trust the Father
 - 1. What are the answers to the questions in 8.31-35? We are presented with a summary in 8:38-39:
 - 2. Romans 8:39: (no) *created thing will be able to **separate** us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus...*
- C. Trust the Spirit
 - 1. Romans 8:16: *The Spirit himself **testifies** together with our spirit that we are God's children,*
 - 2. Romans 8:26: *The Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.*

III. Confidence helps us Through Life. It Helps:

- A. As we walk: 1 John 1:7: *If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*
- B. In what we say:: 1 Peter 3:15
- C. In our prayers: 1 John 5:14: *This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*
- D. In the future: Philippians 1:19: *because I know this will lead to my salvation through your prayers and **help** from the Spirit of Jesus Christ.*

IV. As We Close...

- A. We need confidence.
- B. When God's word is deep in your heart – brings stability.
- C. Have you placed your trust in Him?