**HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN GOD – Part 2**

Confidence in God is not built upon our emotions and feelings but on our beliefs and understanding of God’s nature and character. This is done through study and believing God’s Word.

**The 10 keys to help us develop our confidence and trust in God**

## 1. Know / Understand the nature and character of your God

We cannot trust a God we do not know. We must know the attributes and promises of God in order to trust Him well. Not only do we need to read and know God through His Word, but we need to grow in it.

2 Peter 3:17-18 declares **“**You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; **18**but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Ladies and gentlemen, growth requires three main things namely time, intentionality, and consistency. Sadly, the process of growing in our knowledge of God through His Word can often seem like the most meaningless time of our day whilst in reality, it is the most important. We will never become confident Christians if we staff our hearts and minds from time in his word.

## 2. Understand that you are a new creation – You are a Christ’s Ambassador

1 Peter 2:9 declares **“**But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light…”

Before we knew the Lord, our identity was marred by sin. As a result, we had no opportunity to have any fellowship with our holy God. When we came to know Jesus, he gave us the fullness of his righteousness again.

When God looks at us, he sees his Son. This is why apostle Paul said there in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that we are a new creation. We are not what we were before. The Bible says in Psalm 103:12 that all our frustrated and failed efforts to make something of ourselves were cast as far away as the east is from the west. Our very sinful nature and identity was replaced upon receiving Jesus Christ is our savior. We are now sons or daughters of God and are given the freedom to live like it.

**Romans 8:15** declares. **15**For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!

## 3. Know that the Lord is your helper and advocate.

## John 14:26 (AMPC) declares, “But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.”

God did not redeem us to leave us with insufficient means to carry out our new purpose. He promises us that Holy Spirit will come to live within us to help us know truth and walk in obedience as a result (John 14:16-17). He guarantees that as we pray, Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God (Romans 8:27). He assures us that temptation will never be so great that we lose the capacity to overcome it (1 Corinthians 10:13). He tells us that we walk in victory as we share the gospel.

 2 Corinthians 2:14“Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

**4. Refuse to be distracted and purpose to renew your mind with God’s Word daily**

Joshua 1:8, **“**This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Distractions come in many forms and even from a well-meaning friend who are constantly luring our attention from what is truly good towards the natural. This must be why the God extolled Joshua to meditates on God’s word day and night.

**5. Walk humbly before your God.**

**1 Peter 5:5** **“**Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

Trusting our own talents, skills, and abilities feels far more natural than relying upon a God we cannot see directly. But our own attributes and resources will NOT satisfy us. To be humble implies putting your all trust and confidence on God.

We can trust God’s attributes and resources because they never change. They are always steady and sure and in all circumstances. Our pride blinds us to this truth and makes us believe that we are the sustaining force of our own lives. Humility counteracts pride and reminds us that the only form of confidence that carries any weight is confidence in the Lord’s work, not our own. That is humility.

## 6. Guard against finding your confidence in the affirmation of people.

Pride makes us crave praises from others. While we are called to love one another and therefore gain their favor to the best of our ability (Matthew 5:16; Romans 12:18), we are also told that we will be reviled for the name of Christ (Matthew 10:22).

Our confidence is falsely placed if we seek it in the people around us. This practice makes us unstable believers that are prone to altering our course based on circumstance, feedback, and emotion. It makes us place too great a burden on people who, just like us, fail. It makes our confidence in God feel like a pendulum swing because it is not grounded in Scripture, but in people-pleasing, even if those people are us. Scripture tells us that seeking the favor of others thwarts our very purpose and role in God’s kingdom.

Galatians 1:10 (NLT) says; “Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.”

Instead of seeking the approval of people, we must live in the approval of Christ. In Christ we can be fully confident because his approval has already been won in full.

**7. Embrace who God created you to be.**

**Psalm 149:14** declares, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.”

**Genesis 1:27** says; “So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

All of us were given unique abilities and gifts at creation so we can fulfill the purpose for which we were created. When we learn to appreciate the gifts, we were given and seek to find new ways to hone them and use them to serve God, our God-confidence increases.

**8. Focus on God and not your problems**

Even believers struggle with trusting God because life is hard and cruel at times. But we know there is hope and that joy is possible because of the eternal life we have with Christ. Therefore, God wants us to be full of faith and grow in His divine direction, comforted by the Holy Spirit. In this complete trust of our Lord and Savior, we can live with true peace and joy in the midst of adversity.

**Philippians 4:6** (TLB) tells us “Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers.” When we live by faith, we believe that God has everything under control and we live out what we believe in our actions, in our thoughts and in our words.

If we are to learn how to be God confident, then we have to learn that focusing on our problems leads to worry and anxiety. When we are anxious and fearful, we lose our confidence in God.

**9. Choose faith over fear**

**Hebrews 13:5-6** declares “*Let your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” **6**So we may boldly say “The Lord *is* my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

Fear is a natural response to challenges or the unknown. It’s an emotion that serves a valuable purpose (think fight or flight response), but it can quickly become unhealthy when it paralyzes us or propels us into frantic behavior. Negative outcomes aside, the Bible actually commands us to not be afraid.

Fear prevents us from doing the things we need to do and from becoming the person God wants us to be. To develop our God-confidence, we have to learn to choose faith over fear. We have to remember that every challenge we face is an opportunity to give God the glory as He works in our lives to fulfill His purpose for us.

**10) Walk in obedience – Do whatever the Lord instructs for you to do**

Deuteronomy 10:13 says, “And you must always obey the Lords commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.”

Jeremiah 42:6b “For if we obey Him, everything will turn out well for us.”

The word obedience is defined as compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another authority according to Oxford Languages.

For Christians, this definition becomes, compliance with Gods orders, requests, or laws or submission to God’s authority. Obedience to God has two parts. First, we are to obey His general commands to all mankind-things like the ten commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and love God, love people (Matthew 22:37-39). Second, we are to obey commands He gives to us as individuals - like start a faith blog or adopt this child (a couple examples from my own life).

God doesn’t demand our obedience (He did give us free will, after all), but He does show us how we can walk in obedience to Him if we so choose. Throughout His word, we can find tidbits of wisdom that help us learn exactly what we can do to be sure we are obeying Him in all we do.

Sometimes we get caught up in trying to figure out the specific ways God wants us to live out His will in our lives and forget that there are general things we all can do to walk in obedience to Him. Being intentional about obeying in these general areas brings us into a deeper relationship with God, which will lead to hearing His voice more clearly about other things He wants each of us specifically to do.