

Confidence That Conquers

“For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.” Proverbs 3:26

When trying to succeed in something, there is nothing more disheartening and discouraging than a lack of confidence.

A confidence crisis can cripple us. Low self-confidence leaves us limping along the road of life wondering why everyone else is passing us by and seems to be succeeding. A confidence crisis hinders us from running our race and finishing the course God has laid before us.

According to Webster, the root of confidence means “the quality or state of being certain, faith or belief that one will act in a right, proper, or effective way, assurance, self-possession, faith in one’s self and one’s powers without being arrogant or conceited.”

Being confident has to do with believing in ourselves and our abilities. When confidence is shattered, we tend to retreat into our shells of self-defense and withdraw from challenges that test our belief in ourselves. *Anxiety, fear, and even panic can overwhelm us when uncertainty about our confidence sets in.*

Lack of confidence in **who you are** and **what you can do** cripples a comeback from a setback more than anything else. You have to believe you can come back before you actually come back. Without confidence you can’t conquer the thing that set you back.

As Christians, a confidence crisis can be double trouble. When we question our self-confidence as believers in Jesus Christ, it is not a very far step before we begin to question our confidence in God and our relationship with Him. A personal confidence crisis can erect roadblocks in our walk with the Lord. Doubting ourselves, we can doubt God. If we feel like a failure, it is easy to pull away from the Lord when we need His affirmation and reassurance the most.

A confidence crisis can lead us to question God, His Word and His will for our lives.

Common Causes of A Confidence Crisis

There are a number of things that can cause us to lose confidence. Each one of these can hinder us from moving forward by faith and obedience to fulfill God's plan for us. Unchecked and unresolved, these confidence crushers can cause us to doubt ourselves and the purposeful, prosperous future God has promised to us in His Word.

CONFIDENCE CRUSHER # 1

- **Satan Attacks Our Self-Esteem And Self-Confidence**

The devil is a thief and destroyer who is out to steal and destroy your confidence in Christ (John 10:10). Your spiritual enemy will never stop attacking your self-esteem and self-confidence. It is vital that we keep our spiritual armor on at all times (Ephesians 6:10-20) and we stand firm in our confidence in Jesus Christ who overcomes Satan.

CONFIDENCE CRUSHER # 2

- **Significant Others Tear Down Our Self-Confidence**

It is sad, and too bad, but parents, siblings, peers, relatives, marriage partners, teachers, coaches, bosses and others who influence us can beat down our self-confidence. When spoken by people we look up to, words like "You are no good" "You will never amount to anything" "Why can't you be like your brother?" "You are a failure" and "You will always be a loser" cut to the quick of our belief in ourselves and our abilities.

CONFIDENCE CRUSHER # 3

- **Poor Past Performance Haunts Our Self-Confidence**

You made a mistake. Maybe you failed. So others and maybe even you brand yourself a failure. Failure is never fatal or final, but poor past performance strikes deep at self-confidence. Because we blew it once, we wonder if we will blow it again. We question our ability to do better next time. A second chance is desirable. But a confidence crisis holds a new beginning at arm's length.

CONFIDENCE CRUSHER # 4

- **Misplaced Confidence**

Confidence can be dismantled and we can become disillusioned when it is placed in the wrong places. Other people, systems and institutions, get rich quick schemes,

works/righteousness religious service, and confidence in ourselves that isn't based on confidence in Christ will inevitably let us down.

Misplaced confidence, no matter how well-intentioned, can never do for us what Christ-confidence can. When misplaced confidences let us down, it is important we don't get down on ourselves.

CONFIDENCE CRUSHER # 5

- **The Deadly Game Of Compete And Compare**

Competition and comparison is a major crusher of confidence. Why? Because there will always be someone brighter, taller, more attractive, sharper, faster, better gifted and equipped, wealthier, more talented and more successful than we are. If our self-confidence is based on competing and comparing ourselves with others, we will find ourselves on the short of the end of the stick more often than not.

CONFIDENCE CRUSHER # 6

- **Negative Self-Talk**

We are often our own worst enemies when bashing self-esteem and self-confidence. When life turns south, we are tempted to beat up on ourselves. Somehow, we think that if we slam and hammer ourselves enough, life will turn upward again. Trash talking ourselves only deepens our confidence crisis. Positive self-talk is the remedy for negative self-talk that crushes confidence.

A Biblical Case Of Confidence Crisis

The Bible is full of godly characters who experienced a confidence crisis. From Moses to Elijah to Jonah to Job to Peter and Paul, at some time in their lives, low self-confidence plagued many of God's heroes of the faith.

If anyone could have been pulverized under the pressure of a confidence crisis, it was the Apostle Paul.

Before He was born-again and became Paul, Paul was Saul. Saul stood over Stephen while he was stoned to death (Acts 7:54-60, Acts 9:1). He persecuted the church by dragging Christians out of their homes and putting them in prison (Acts 9:1-3). Saul opposed Christ's followers with all of his might.

Saul became Paul at his conversion (Acts 9:1-31). He began preaching the good news of Jesus Christ. The disciples questioned his sincerity and were initially skeptical of this former persecutor of the faith.

Thinking back on who he was as Saul and what he had done to try and stamp out the name of Jesus, I am sure Paul struggled with confidence in who he was as a Christian and minister. Hear his own assessment of his qualifications for ministry.

“I thank Jesus Christ our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, putting me into service; even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

And yet for this reason I found mercy in order that in me as the fore most, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Did you catch what Paul said? Blasphemer and foremost sinner of all. Number one sinner! Talk about a possible failure complex and basis for a confidence crisis in serving Christ. But not Paul. He humbly received God’s mercy and served the Lord.

Paul’s confidence was not in Paul. It was in his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the one and only true God.

Most of the scripture references that follow were penned by Paul. **Read and meditate on Paul’s Holy Spirit inspired words that make it clear that he conquered his confidence crisis through confidence in Christ.**

Scriptures That Build and Boost Christ-Confidence

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

“And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.” II Corinthians 3:4-5

“For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain....” I Corinthians 15:9-10a

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20

“For I am confident of this very thing that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6

“For the Lord will be your confidence and keep your foot from being caught.” Proverbs 3:26

“I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustains me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about.” Psalm 3:5-6

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for Thou are with me.” Psalm 23:4

“For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I believe that you do. And Agrippa replied to Paul, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.” Acts 26:26-28

Self-Confidence or Christ-Confidence?

- ✓ **As a Christian, is your confidence in you or is it in the Christ who is in you?**
- ✓ **Do you put your faith in you or is your faith in God?**
- ✓ **Do you rely on your abilities or God’s ability on your behalf?**
- ✓ **Do you put more confidence in people than you do in God?**
- ✓ **Would people say you depend on you or you depend on God?**
- ✓ **When push comes to shove, do you or God do the shoving?**

- ✓ **Do you feel success is up to you or up to the Lord?**
- ✓ **Is your trust in yourself or is your trust in God?**

BOTTOM LINE: If you answered the above questions and it was all about you, then you have chosen self-confidence over Christ-confidence. Where has self-confidence outside of Christ gotten you? Maybe it is time to shift from self-confidence to Christ-confidence.

Confidence That Conquers

As a pastor in Christian ministry, I (Steve Roll) experienced a confidence crisis that devastated me and nearly kept me from staying in the ministry. *With God's help, I battled through my battered lack of self-confidence and settled it forever that my confidence would be in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

I want to share with you ten lessons I have learned that build Christ-confidence.

1. I can "let go and let God" because He knows what He is doing (Revelation 22:13, Genesis 18:25).
2. My success is God's problem, not mine (I Thessalonians 5:24).
3. When we do what we can, God will do what we can't (II Chronicles 20).
4. The Holy Spirit is my Helper and constant companion (John 14:16-17).
5. I don't have to know it all. I do need to know Him (Philippians 3:10-11)
6. My part is to sow the seed. His part is to grow the seed (Mark 4:26-29)
7. God will never disappoint me (Romans 10:13).
8. Things run a lot smoother when I make it easy on myself and hard on God (Jeremiah 32:27).
9. Life has not passed me by. It is all in front of me. My future is forward (Jeremiah 31:17).

10. The Lord is still working on me. He hasn't finished with me yet!

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 1:6

How You Can Become A Confident Christian

If you will be diligent to take the following steps, you will be amazed how you will begin to gain confidence in **WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST.**

1. Rebuke the devil and resist his lies that attack your Christian confidence.
2. Renounce every negative voice that has bashed your self-confidence. Run from and refuse to listen to relatives, friends, or foes who tear your confidence down.
3. Release through forgiveness those who have bashed your self-confidence.
4. Forgive yourself for past failures. Commit yourself to future success.
5. Reject all negative self-talk. Stop beating yourself down. Start building yourself up.
6. Renew your mind with God's Word regarding Christ-confidence.
7. Listen to messages and read books that build Christian confidence.
8. Hang around Christians who are confident in Christ.
9. Be accountable to someone you trust to help you stay Christ-confident.
10. Ask God to use you to help other Christians be confident in Christ.

Begin Today to Conquer Your Confidence Crisis

You, yes you, can conquer your confidence crisis by being confident in Jesus Christ.

➤ Step One

*** Make this confession everyday for thirty days.**

“I (insert your name) can do all things through Jesus Christ who is my strength (and confidence)”
Philippians 4:13

➤ Step Two

*** Write out on paper why you are a confident Christian.**

“Then the Lord answered me and said, Record the vision. Inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run.”
Habakkuk 2:2

➤ **Step Three**

*** Share with a friend your newfound Christ-confidence.**

Be accountable to someone you trust who will help you stay confident in Christ.

➤ **Step Four**

*** Thank God for delivering you from low self-Christ-confidence and renewing you with confidence and renewing you with**

“We will sing for joy over your victory! And in and name of our God we will set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.”
Psalm 20:5

*** CELEBRATE your confidence in yourself as a Christian ***

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