

## Confidence

*As a Christian, what does it mean to be confident in everything you do?*

The dictionary definition of confidence:

- 1) The feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust
- 2) The state of feeling certain about the truth of something

A better definition of confidence might be: *'an attitude which enables a positive and realistic perception of one's self and abilities. It is evidenced by optimism, enthusiasm, assertiveness, independence and trust'.*

Confident people have faith in their future, and can assess their own capabilities. They believe that they will be able to do whatever they desire and expect, no matter what the obstacles. Even when some of their goals are not met, confident people continue to be positive, to believe in themselves and to accept setbacks with renewed energy.

What's amazing about this description of confidence is how having God in your life can help you achieve it. Let's look at the *same paragraphs again*, but adding to the descriptions by showing how God can help.

Confidence:

- 1) The feeling or belief that one can rely on God; firm trust in Him
- 2) The state of feeling certain about the truth of something (faith in God's love)

Another definition: *'an attitude which enables a positive and realistic perception of one's self and abilities, knowing that they have been given to you by God. It is evidenced by optimism,*

*enthusiasm, assertiveness, independence, as well as faith and trust in the Lord.*

Confident people have faith in their future, and can honestly assess their own capabilities, because they know that God is looking after them, and has a plan for their lives. They believe that they will be able to do whatever they desire and expect, no matter what the obstacles, because God is helping. Even when some of their goals are not met, confident people continue to be positive, to believe in themselves and to accept setbacks with renewed energy. They know that God will get them through it.

There are many benefits when we have confidence in God. We know that whatever abilities we have are given by Him, and that He expects us to use them for His glory. As a result, we become stronger Christians. We achieve more than we ever could alone. We also make a greater impact on other people.

Philippians 4:13 says: "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*" Through Jesus you have the power to do anything that He asks of you, enabling you to overcome and succeed in any situation.

God calls us to be confident. When we complain that we are unhealthy, overweight, or overwhelmed by life's circumstances, or when we speak poorly of our own abilities or achievements, we are not allowing ourselves to be what God has planned for us. When we fear that we will fail, we are admitting that we do not trust that He will help us to be successful.

In my own case, I know that I have certain abilities and talents. I recognize that I am a good teacher ... but only because God has helped me to be that way. Without Him I wasn't.

I also know that I am a good writer, again because it is a talent that God has given me, one that He expects me to use for His glory. I do my best.

While God has not seen fit to bless me with any musical abilities, He *has* given me a talent for drawing and cartooning. I think He knows that lifting the spirits of others, or making people laugh, is a good thing.

Most of all, I value the gift He has given me that makes me care so much about others. I wasn't always a caring person, but since He has been in my life, He has shown me the kind of person I need to be. I believe that God expects me to give of my time to help others be successful, or to help them in other ways, and I do this because He expects me to. And He loves me so much that He makes sure I always grow and learn as I'm doing it.

Being positive and confident in your abilities is not boasting. It's not about you. Your expression of confidence is about the faith you have that God will help you overcome any difficulties that arise, as you seek to follow the plan He has for your life. He wants to use you to do something wonderful.

You *know* that you will achieve your goals. You won't ever give up. And you will obey God in all things. You know that you were created by God for a purpose ... for His purpose, and that your perseverance makes you stronger for Him. He created you to be strong and to succeed, and you believe it.

That's confidence.

*"Our confidence must not be in what we have done, nor in what we plan to do, but entirely in what the Lord will do". Charles Spurgeon*