



Work of the Week (W.O.W)

Confidence

Wednesday W.O.W for May 6, 2020

Confidence – that is what I need. The writer of the book of Hebrews uses the word at least seven times. Lessons for today, for this week, for life.

Confidence. Where do you place your confidence, your trust? Investments, political leaders, doctors, church leaders? The most recent Gallup poll, asking people about the professionals they most trust, placed nurses as #1, trusted by 85% of those surveyed. Medical doctors were #3 at 65%. Investment advisors were #17 on the list, Senators and Congressmen at #20 and #21. (There were only 22 options.) Church leaders came in at #10 – near the halfway point of the list.

Gallup doesn't include God or Jesus in the list of options. Such a survey would be interesting. How many people really depend on God and put their trust in Jesus? Confidence.

Confidence comes because what you are confident in is always the same, trustworthy.

So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" ...Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Heb. 13:6, 8)

How often do we fail to read the Bible in context? Is it only an accident that v. 8 follows v. 6? When we read verse 6 in context, in every situation, confidence reigns supreme. The Lord is our helper, our aid, our power. We do not fear. Nothing will happen to us that is beyond our God. Why? Because Jesus is dependable – always the same.

Confidence brings us stability. No need to worry about change – with Jesus there is no shadow or variation. Regardless of our circumstances, we have a solid rock, a foundation for life.

This theme echoes through the book of Hebrews.

3:6, Christ is faithful, we can hold that confidence firmly. No doubt, wavering, hesitation. Our confidence in Christ is the foundation of our hope.

3:14, Holding firmly to our confidence in Christ, we find fulfilled in our lives his purpose in sharing with us, to be for us salvation and strength, confidence in his power to save and to sustain (2:14-18).

4:16, We approach the throne of God's grace with confidence, we come before God with confidence, seeking mercy for forgiveness and grace for life in every time of need.

10:19, We confidently enter the very throne room of the presence of God, because of our confidence in Jesus and his shed blood.

10:35, Do not throw away your confidence.

11:1, Faith involves confidence and conviction. By faith, we confidently depend on God's faithfulness to fulfill his promises—he rewards diligent seekers. Faith is also our conviction that God exists, even though unseen. Confidence and conviction. What a combination!

Six times the writer mentions our confidence, so that our text today becomes a climax, a high point, the top of the mountain, the goal.

So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Heb. 13:6, 8)