

# Lord of Life Ministries

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## “Confidence”

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Today we are going to get into a very important Word the Lord has put on my heart. It is a Word that we all need to hear, because we are called to be “Overcomers” in Christ! Some of you may ask, “What is an Overcomer?” An Overcomer is an individual who realizes that “THE OVERCOMER” lives within them. They understand that CHRIST HAS OVERCOME ALL THINGS, and that in Him they have been given that same Power. An Overcomer is an individual who has learned to rise above and overcome the many obstacles that have stood in their way all through their life. They are individuals who through Christ will even overcome death itself. Through the things that they have suffered they have learned obedience, and how to overcome the appetites of the flesh and the pride of life. An Overcomer rises above their circumstances and overcomes the world. **In its simplest terms, an Overcomer is an individual who endures to the end and overcomes through Christ whatever is trying to overcome them!**

You know that Christ is in you, and HE IS THE OVERCOMER. As you have that relationship with He Who is in

you, you will overcome that which has overcome you in the past. As you are One with THE OVERCOMER, you will overcome everything that comes along in your life. You will overcome sin, doubt, unbelief, fears, and worries. You will overcome anxieties, frustration, the lust of the flesh, and the world. This is only done through Christ, and this is what He has called you to in Him!

None of us are there yet, walking in this all the time yet, however, an Overcomer is an individual who will walk in the realm of “Confidence” all the time.

“Confidence” is when you have assurance/hope (the Word and Promise(s) of God) and there is no lack of Faith in you; none whatsoever! You have it no matter what your circumstances are. No matter what is going on in your life, you will have “Confidence” that everything is okay, and all is well (no worries)!

This is what God has put on my heart to share with you today, because “Confidence” is a must in this realm of God. It is something that we must use and walk in all the time. We need it more now than ever before.

In looking up the word “Confidence” in the Webster’s Dictionary, it first says to see “Confide” which means: **Trust** (which also means: Confidence; **a reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle of another person. To place confidence in; to rely on. To believe. To commit to the care of,** in confidence.), **Faith** (which means: **the assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity, without other evidence**). In the Webster Dictionary it also goes on to say that “Confidence” means: **A trusting, or reliance; an assurance of mind or firm belief in the integrity, stability or veracity of another, or in the truth and reality of a fact. Boldness; courage.** And in yet another dictionary it says that “Confidence” means: **Full trust.**

**You can have “Confidence” because you serve THE ALMIGHTY GOD! The way to have it, and keep it, is to put all your trust in Him and His ways. However, if you don’t know Him and His ways; you will not have the confidence to get you through the situations that come your way.**

**If you have the “Confidence” of God, you can walk through any thing, situation, or circumstance in your life.**

Sometimes when we’re facing a problem, (because of the appearance of things) our mind is troubled and bombarded with one negative thought after another. However, no matter what the problem, we have learned through experience and the things that we have suffered, to immediately turn to Him in prayer; to talk things over with Him - believing and trusting in Him, His Word, and His ways. As we do, He not only takes us through the problems in front of us, but also He causes us to rise above them in confidence, where we can once again experience His Rest, Righteousness, Peace, and Joy.

At times we have all been very weak and worried about our circumstances and situations. But why have we been weak? Sometimes, because of all the things we have had to endure and walk through in our lives. The negative and often painful experiences, disappointments, rejections, betrayals, thoughts, feelings, and memories of the past have left their mark upon what feels like our “weary” and “beaten” soul. Because of all the things we carry with us in our soul, the affects of the past have left us sometimes feeling trapped and weighted down, bound, fearful, and lacking the confidence we need to move forward and overcome what is standing in our way and trying to overcome us.

To give you an example, the Lord showed me one thing in

particular about myself. He showed me that when I was little, I was strictly ruled over by my mother and father; and even by my brothers. So what did I do about it? When I was old enough, I got married! I skipped going to college, and for the next 25 years I was ruled over and controlled by my husband. I had no confidence whatsoever. I lived in fear; and when an individual lives in fear, they have no confidence.

The point I’m trying to make here is: when we’re put down and controlled by others, all that stuff (the hurts and memories/negative thoughts and feelings) gets stored away in our soul as great weights that we carry with us wherever we go. Carrying these great weights everywhere leaves us weak in our soul and often afraid, lacking the confidence to rise up and overcome those things that stand in our way of being, doing, and possessing all that God has set before us and called us to in Him.

Another thing that will take away your confidence is your own “**disobedience**”, because when you disobey God you harden your heart against Him. Your heart hardens because of sin!

Hebrews 3:14-15 says, “**For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear His Voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.**” This same verse in the Amplified Bible says, “**For we have become fellows with Christ (the Messiah) and share in all He has for us, if only we hold our first newborn confidence and original assured expectation [in virtue of which**

**we are believers] firm and unshaken to the end. Then while it is [still] called Today, if you would hear His Voice and when you hear It, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion [in the desert, when the people provoked and irritated and embittered God against them].**” I don’t care who you are or what anyone else tells you, if God has told you **not to do something** and **you choose to do it anyway**

If God has given you Divine instructions (“**...If you have heard His Voice...**”) and shown you exactly what He wants you to do, and you **don’t** do it, unbelief immediately sets in. 1Samuel 15:23 says, “**...rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the Word of the LORD, He hath also rejected thee from being king.**” John 16:6 says, “**If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire (hells of their own mind), and they are burned.**” Finally your heart hardens towards God. It happens every time; and when your heart hardens, you no longer have confidence. You have guilt!

“**Guilt**” is another thing that keeps you from walking in the confidence of God, because **guilt is the result of sin!** Have you ever noticed that every time you get the strong desire to go ever deeper and whole heartedly with God, that as soon as you begin to go full force with great confidence and excitement in life, the next thing you know something comes around the corner to cause your thoughts to wander off track and snare you?

One minute you are enthusiastic about life and your relationship with the Lord, and the next you may find yourself snared and overcome by the guilt of sin and your confidence gone. Sometimes it might even come in the form of a thought/memory of something you did a long time ago.

However, you don't have to stay in that condition. You can get back in that place of confidence by allowing the Overcomer that is in you to strengthen and empower you! If you remain in your union and relationship with Him, you can have the confidence of knowing that, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*" (Philippians 4:13). IN HIM you will be strengthened! **No matter what is going on in your life, IN CHRIST YOU HAVE THE VICTORY!**

Your mind may be bombarded with every kind of thought imaginable, and when you turn your attention to those thoughts rather than put your trust in Him and His ways - the next thing you know you have lost the confidence you had. But all you need to do to get your confidence back again is to get in prayer. Have you ever experienced that? I'm sure you have. **Along with Prayer - Faith, Assurance, Confidence, and Praise are what we need to carry us through our daily walk, even unto the end.**

Have you ever noticed that "confidence" drives away unbelief? When you put your confidence in God in any given situation, it will drive away all those thoughts that bombard and fill your mind. When you put your trust in Him, it will drive

away all of those negative thoughts that try to snare and knock you down.

**"Confidence" drives away doubt! It drives away fear! It drives away unbelief, anxieties, and worries!** You can tell when someone is walking in the realm of confidence, because they are confident in God and not in their own abilities and strength. Even though all hell breaks loose in their life, they know that they will get through it - because He is with them always. They know Him, and how He operates. They know that they can trust Him no matter what the situation is. No matter how negative it may appear through their five senses and natural mind, God is in control and will take them through it in Victory.

They have learned to recognize the tricks of the enemy; and how to be Victorious in Christ. They have learned how to deal with temptation and nip it in the bud, because "**temptation**" is another thing that will take away your confidence - if you let it.

How do you face temptation? You must know that it is death. You need to understand that fact, and when temptation comes your way, know that it is there to take you out of that Victorious walk in Christ. It is used to get you out of that narrow path of simplicity where your goal and single purpose is to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. It will reveal and expose those weak areas in you; that you have yet to overcome.

You can overcome temptation when you recognize it for what it is, and immediately

rejoice: saying, "God, I thank you for revealing this weak area in me. I am willing to let you deal with it, because IN YOU I AM MORE THAN A CONQUERER. I can do this!" There is nothing in your life that you cannot conquer. **You can overcome anything when you are IN CHRIST!**

Temptation can come in many forms. It can come through people who tempt you to take advice from them. When you listen to and follow the advice of people speaking a word that is not coming from the Spirit of the Lord, you can lose your confidence. Look at Job. Job hadn't committed any sin, but what did God do? He sent the sifter to Job to try (test) him. Did He not? Job also had a bunch of friends who said that he must have committed some great sin. They all said that, "He must have done something really bad for all the things that were happening to him, because those kinds of things only happen to those who sow wickedness." Read Job chapter 4 and you will see how they misjudged him. What they were really doing was tearing down his confidence and robbing him of hope. On top of all that he had already been through - through their words and advice/counsel, they made him even more depressed.

This is the reason why we are not to take advice from the carnal mind. If you listen to what is coming out of the carnal mind, you are feeding upon death, and will lose the confidence you have in Christ. The reason why we lose our confidence when we start to believe a lie, is because we enter into unbelief; and the fruit (or result) of our unbelief is that it

takes away or removes us from that place of confidence/trust in God. We have learned that when temptation comes to tear us down and rob us, we need to go within and say, "God, I thank You! Thank You for helping me to see the tempter. I see the tempter right in front of me trying to get me to do this thing and believe a lie. I thank You Lord, that I can overcome this thing through Christ, that You are my strength and have taught me the right thing to do. I Thank You for showing me my weak area, now help me to be strong in this area through You and your Strength Lord. I thank You Lord, that when I am weak, You are strong."

When temptation comes (in what ever form it takes on) you need to look First to Jesus. Then through His eyes you need to take a good look at what it is that is tempting you to learn where you are still weak, and so that you can surrender it to God. When temptation comes you need to say, "I know who I am in Christ. I know who the tempter is and what he is trying to do. I know that it is death and not Life. I am choosing between Life and death every day, and I will choose Life, because I do not want to lose my confidence and boldness that is in Christ. I do not want to lose this Victorious Life that I have in Christ. Why should I go back down into hells of my mind to suffer and be tormented, when I can experience God's Righteousness (Right Thinking) Peace, and Joy? Why should I yield to something and settle for that which is temporal, when I can have and experience that which is Eternal now? Why

should I yield to it and fail this test?"

All Overcomers need to be tested. This is what happened to Israel in the wilderness as well. Israel was tested, but could not enter into what God wanted them to because they never learned to walk in confidence. They never learned to take God at His Word, believing and trusting that He would do all that He said He would do. Instead, they walked in rebellion and disobedience. Their hearts were hardened towards God. Even though the works were finished from the foundation of the world, the Word preached to them was never mixed with Faith; and because of unbelief, Israel never entered into the Rest that God had promised them.

God wants you to face the things/areas of your life you are tempted in, by recognizing them for what they are (areas that are not yet like Christ), and by exercising your confidence/trust in Christ, allow Him to deal with and consume these things in you. Knowing that the Overcomer is in you, you can overcome anything through Christ who strengthens you. You can Trust Him and allow Him to change those areas in you that need to change; and IN HIM walk in the Life that God has called you to!

Confidence comes by meditating on the Word of God. It comes by spending time with Him in prayer. It comes by knowing His ways, experiencing Him daily in our walk through a relationship and Union with Him. Sometimes thoughts do bombard your mind, and it is in those times more than ever that you need to draw close to Him

and meditate on His Word. It is during these times that by Faith we need to press ever deeper into Him and His Glorious Rest, and allow Him/the Overcomer to have His way in and through us!

Sometimes you might get discouraged and be tempted to murmur and complain, and get upset just like Israel did. But what's the point in doing that? When you do this, you are wasting your time and energy on nothing but death. By murmuring and complaining you only go deeper into the hells of your mind. Remember that confidence comes by meditating on the Word of the Lord.

We all get discouraged at times; but we don't have to stay that way. We know what to do about it. We cannot put our trust in anyone but God, because we cannot have confidence in the flesh. HE GIVES US, and IS THE SOURCE OF the CONFIDENCE WE NEED.

I recently spoke with a sister in the Lord who was telling me about all the struggles she was having in her relationship with her husband. I have heard so many stories like hers just in the past week alone. When you have an unhappy relationship with your mate, you have to come to the place in God where you rise above it and don't let it bother you anymore, because you can't change that person's walk. If you have a close walk with the Lord, and your mate does not, their behavior and actions will not be like yours. All you can do is release them to the Lord to be who they are, and work out your own salvation in the Lord.

Philippians 2:12-15 says, "*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye*

*have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*" As you stay in that Rest in God, you will be able to let your mate be who he or she is.

God has called you to walk in the confidence and knowledge of who you are in Him. However, some of God's sons aren't fully awake yet, and do not know who they are in Him. If they knew who they are and the position to which they have been called in Christ, they would not yield to temptations.

What will rob you of your confidence? For one thing: "**Fear**". Fear will cancel out your confidence and cause you to forget who you are in Him. Sometimes you have thoughts of guilt buried deep in your soul, resulting from past experiences as a child or some other time in your life. The guilt that is buried deep in your soul causes you to have low self-esteem.

I know so many people with low self-esteem as the result of being brow beaten all their life, abused, and being told that they are no good and will never amount to anything. Because of what they've been though, they learned to believe a lie that is so engrained in them that it is buried in their subconscious of their mind. It is hard for them to

realize that it is even there within them. They get little spurts of confidence every now and then, but if someone comes along with a negative comment, remark, or lie, it sends them right into the hellish depression of their mind. This is the reason why it takes some people longer to change and come forth in Truth of who they are in God than others. This is also the reason why we are not to judge one another. We don't know what that other person has been through in the past and must overcome in their mind now. Some have gone through a great deal more than others. It also takes some longer to grow and mature in God than others; and to overcome the weak areas within them where they have been tempted in the past.

As we have said, fear will cause you to loose your confidence; and that is when you start focusing on your circumstances, rather than on what God has said. When you focus on your circumstances and feed upon the thoughts of fear that come in your mind, your confidence is shaken. Even so, many of you are staying more and more in the flow of the Spirit.

Just like in poor Job's situation, another stumbling block can be "**bad advice from others**". For a time Job listened to a lot of really bad advice from his friends. They were so sure that that they knew what was wrong in his life; but their advice was untrue, and caused him to lose his confidence.

Another stumbling block is "**sin**" and "**disobedience**". True "Confidence" is knowing who God is; that He is in control, and nothing can come our way unless

He allows it. If God does allow something to come our way He has a purpose in it, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28). Because of the realm that we are in, we have confidence in God, and know Him. Romans 8:37-39 says, "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nothing and nobody can separate you from the Love of God; not even death!

Knowing who God IS, and who you ARE IN HIM, will keep your Confidence in Him! Knowing that His Word and Promises, as well as what He has spoken to you (directly and through others) is all True - is a comfort and a strength to you, so that no matter what comes to shake your confidence, you will always have the Victory in Him. When those around you are acting up and coming at you, you can remember the Promises He gave you and remain in confidence. In all circumstances you will find your confidence in Him; and in Him alone!

I tell you, this is the hour that we need to have confidence. We need to have the Lord's Confidence to take us right through to the end (result/finish/goal) of our walk in Christ. David wrote in Psalm

73:26-28, *"My flesh and my heart faileth: but **GOD IS MY STRENGTH, AND MY PORTION FOR EVER.** For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But **IT IS GOOD FOR ME TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD: I HAVE PUT MY TRUST IN THE LORD GOD, THAT I MIGHT DECLARE ALL THY WORKS.**"*

In Hebrews chapter 10, the Lord tells us how we are to come before Him, and make our requests known to Him in prayer. He tells us that with boldness we are to enter into the Holy of Holies through the Blood of Christ and come boldly before the Throne of God. That when we come boldly behind the veil and into His Presence, we are to draw near to Him with a true heart and the full assurance and confidence of knowing in our heart that He hears us. Not many people have that kind of assurance or confidence in God, that He even hears them. They lack this assurance and confidence because they are so weighted down with all the thoughts and problems that they carry within their own mind; and as a result of this, in their own mind/soul they have actually become greater (more important) than God. In other words, God takes a back seat to all that is in their mind and what is going on in their life.

We want to look at Hebrews 10:19-39, beginning at verse 19 where it says, *"**Having therefore, brethren, BOLDNESS TO ENTER INTO THE HOLIEST BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS...**"*. In other words, God is saying that in order to pray we must go within, because the Kingdom of God and

the Throne of God are within us. In addition to this, He doesn't want us to come into His Presence like we are walking on egg shells, He says that **we are to COME WITH BOLDNESS** (the Amplified Bible says, "full freedom and confidence") **to talk with God**. You can boldly say that, "I am going to talk with God face to face." Not by anything that we did; or by how great we are; but because of what Jesus did for us on the cross - we can come boldly (with confidence) to talk with our Father in the most Holy place of all/the Holy of Holies, any time we want! **We can come right into the Presence of God and know with full assurance that as we are communing with the Father - we are there (in the Holy of Holies)**. We are not hoping and trying to get there - we are there! Do you understand what I am saying? Because of what Jesus did on the cross, the veil was (past tense) rent so that **WE CAN BOLDLY ENTER IN NOW**. Not somewhere down the road when we die and go to heaven - NOW!

This is the purpose (or reason) for God saying what He did in Amos 9:11-15 and Acts 15:16-17. To paraphrase what God is saying through these scriptures, He is saying that, "I will raise up and build again the tabernacle of David that the residue of men and all the Gentiles might seek after the Lord by whom His Name is called (meaning all those who have taken on the Nature of God). They will enter in and go out no more." The reason why He wants to restore the tabernacle of David (in and within a people), is

because in the tabernacle of David there was no veil.

David had an intimate relationship with the Father and understood that he could come boldly to His Father anytime he wanted, and talk about anything. He could talk about his enemies and problems. He could talk to the Father about anything, and that is where David got his strength and confidence from. With every obstacle/enemy that stood before David to destroy him, he knew within that the Father was always with him; that he could always turn to Him in prayer; and as David so frequently did out of his Love for God - in worship and in praise! If you don't know God personally, then how can you trust Him?

*"**Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, "By a new and living way** (Jesus said in John 14:6, "...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me"), **which He hath consecrated for us, THROUGH THE VEIL, that is to say, His flesh; And having an High Priest over the house of God; LET US DRAW NEAR WITH A TRUE HEART...**"*. In other words, when you come before the Lord, be honest with Him (and respect Him). 1John 5:14-15 says, *"**And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to HIS WILL, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.**"*

Continuing on in Hebrews 10:22-23 it says, *"**IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil**"*

conscience (in the Amplified Bible it says, "having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty (evil) conscience"), and our bodies washed with pure water. LET US HOLD FAST the profession of our faith WITHOUT WAVERING; (for He is faithful that promised);" Don't waver back and forth, believing one minute and not the next - remain/stay in the confidence of Faith. "And let us consider one another to provoke (each other) unto Love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting (encouraging) one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

If you remember back, we said earlier that sin is one thing that takes away our confidence. Now in verses 26 and 27 it says, "For IF WE SIN WILLFULLY AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH, THERE REMAINETH NO MORE SACRIFICE FOR SINS, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. HE THAT DESPISESD MOSES' LAW DIED WITHOUT MERCY under two or three witnesses:" In other words, everyone that despised the things that God gave them through Moses', died in the wilderness because they chose to live in and according to their own soul; rather than in the Confidence/Faith of God.

It goes on to say in verse 29, "...of how much SORER PUNISHMENT, suppose ye, shall be thought worthy, WHO HATH TROODEN UNDER FOOT THE SON OF GOD, and HATH COUNTHED THE BLOOD OF

THE COVENANT, wherewith he was sanctified, AN UNHOLY THING, and HATH DONE DESPITE (outwardly) UNTO (against) THE SPIRIT OF GRACE?" So what does this mean? You are a son of God. 1John 3:1-2 "Behold, what manner of Love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called THE SONS OF GOD: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew HIM not. Beloved, NOW ARE WE THE SONS OF GOD, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." You are "a son of God", but Jesus is "THE SON of God". He is the First Son of many, "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of HIS SON, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:28). He is THE CHRIST, and even though HE WHO KNEW NO SIN was made sin for us, that we might be made the Righteousness of God in Him - when WE (choose to) WALK IN SIN, we have literally trodden HIM under foot. The "foot" is representative of our walk.

Verse 30-31 says, "For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." This is where we are at now (today). Judgment begins at the house of God as 1Peter 4:17 says, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them

that obey not the gospel of God?"

It has to start with me and you!

Going on in verses 32 and 35 it says, "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions... Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward." In other words, don't let anyone or anything take away your "Confidence" in God. Don't cast it away for anybody, anything, any sin, lust or appetite of the flesh! Don't let anyone take away; and don't throw away what you have in Christ! What you have in Him, and what He has given you is too precious! He has given it to every individual who has received Him. John 1:12-13 says, "...AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE HE THE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD, even to them that believe (have Confidence and Trust) on His name: WHICH WERE BORN, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but OF GOD." You are very precious, so do not let the enemy steal IT (your confidence and identity in Him). He has stolen long enough, from far too many. The thief I'm talking about is the flesh. The Spirit of Satan which operates in the flesh, has stolen long enough. **By walking in the Confidence and Boldness of Christ - let him steal no more!**

Let's read that one more time. Verse 35 says, "CAST NOT AWAY therefore YOUR CONFIDENCE, WHICH HATH GREAT RECOMPENCE OF REWARD." You have a great reward in Him, and every time you take a stand for Christ, you have a great reward. Every time



you deny self, take up your cross, and follow after Him (by obeying Him; by walking in the Word/Confidence of God), you have a great reward! That great reward is the Crown of Glory (mind and Nature of Christ), and IT never fades away.

I know that sometimes even I say, "God, how long? You've told us things, but how much longer? When will it happen, Lord? Even so Lord, help me, because I don't want to become like the people in the days of Noah. I don't want to enter into doubt and unbelief and let go of what you have told me, or become complacent believing that it is still afar off." God wants us to have "Confidence" and believe that He is who He is; and with Patience walk and trust in Faith, that all that He has said and promised will come to pass, just as He has said it would!

Our impatience will rob us of our confidence. Many of us have been through many hells in our life; but through them, God has been working His patience into us! He is going to keep working His patience in to us, because it will be His patience that will enable us to endure to the end. Jesus said in Matthew 10:22 that, "*...he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*" God doesn't want you to let go of the promises He has given you; and you know within you, what those promises are.

Verse 36 of Hebrews chapter 10 says, "*For YE HAVE NEED OF PATIENCE, that, AFTER YE HAVE DONE (finished/fulfilled/completed) THE WILL OF GOD (course/purpose/plan He has predestined and set before you), YE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE." Paul knew that he*

had a reward waiting for him, and he also knew when his course was finished. Each one of us is to endure with patience and walk out to the end (completion), the course that God has set before us. Don't let anything stop you or get you off track. Set your heart and mind to go all the way with God, no matter what the cost.

Verses 37-38 says, "*For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. NOW (today) THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*" Lord, have mercy! Every time we draw back from what God has shown us, He has no pleasure in us!

Verse 39 goes on to say, "*But WE ARE NOT OF THEM who draw back unto perdition; BUT OF THEM THAT BELIEVE TO THE SAVING OF THE SOUL.*" Where are they drawing back to in verse 38? They are drawing back into the self-will, and God has no pleasure in your self-will, because He has no pleasure in sin. What God has pleasure in, is the Christ that is in you and the Fruits of the Spirit.

How can you have "Confidence"? Abide in Him! If you are the Branch, then you are connected to the Tree (of Life), which He is! Is the Branch going to say, "I have no need of you"? If a Branch removes itself from the Tree, it dies. In other words, when you get (draw back) into your self-will, you are removing yourself from the Vine, which is Christ Himself. That is why Jesus said in John 15:5, "*I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:*

*for (but) without (outside of) Me ye can do nothing.*" This is the reason why we all have to learn to abide in Him.

When we abide in Him we will have the "Confidence" of God flowing in us and through us, just like the sap that flows through the branches of a tree. When you leave that place of abiding in Him, you don't have His "Confidence" anymore. The only way to keep our confidence is by abiding in Him; and if you continue to obey His voice and do what He says, Life and your Relationship with Him just gets better and better, and sweeter and sweeter!

Verse 39 said, "*But WE ARE NOT OF THEM who draw back unto perdition; BUT OF THEM THAT BELIEVE TO THE SAVING OF THE SOUL.*" We believe that God is going to completely restore the soul. He didn't come just for your Spirit and to save you from sin; He came for the Spirit, soul, and body. As the soul is restored back to God, the body is redeemed and comes into total health as well. This is the reason what God is working so hard on your soul.

Now look what happened to Israel (we are still talking about confidence here). I tell you, confidence is a good thing to have, because all hell can break loose in the world around you, but you can have Peace within you and Confidence in your God! No matter what is going on around you, you will know within you that He can, and will take care of you, because you know both Whom you serve, and that He Loves you very much!

Israel constantly disobeyed and didn't believe God, and



Hebrews 3:10-13 says, "Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest.) Take heed, brethren,...". Who is He telling to take heed? He is saying this to us! "...lest there be in any of you AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEE, IN DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD. But exhort one another daily,...". In other words, He is telling us to continually lift and build each other up in Christ. You know, every now and then, we all need an encouraging word. We need someone to come along and remind us of what we have, and who we are in Him. It goes on to say, "...exhort one another daily while it is called Today; lest any of you BE HARDENED THROUGH THE DECEIPTFULNESS OF SIN."

I have watched this, and seen that when a person gets into sin, their heart hardens and grows cooler towards the Lord. This is true in all of us. When we get in the carnal mind we sin, and sin separates us from our first Love.

I was talking with a woman recently, and she had so much fear. She was afraid to go all the way with the Lord. In her heart she knew that she was a lukewarm Christian, but there are many who are lukewarm and don't even know it. You are lukewarm when you are just doing enough to get by in your relationship with the Lord, but Jesus said in Revelation 3:15-16, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out

of My mouth." He would rather have you cold or hot than lukewarm towards Him; but what He really wants is for you to be on fire for Him!

Some of you, when God first brought you into this realm in Him, were so excited and on fire for God that you couldn't wait to get to a meeting. You would get here early every meeting because you couldn't wait to be used of God. I also know that after you've done something for ten or fifteen years, you can become relaxed and laid-back, unenthusiastic and half-hearted towards what God is doing through you - and even your relationship with Him. You can get comfortable and fall into a routine where you just go through the motions of what you were once so passionate about. You can begin to take things for granted.

Just like being able to have water every day, we can take all that God has given and called us to in Him for granted. We can become lukewarm (half-hearted; lifeless; weary in well doing; lazy; cold and removed in our heart and mind; without passion and fire) towards God and the things of God, where we no longer pursue Him, and press ever deeper to know Him and be used of Him; to have Him work through us in ways that we can only imagine). He wants us to be on Fire for Him; never settling for less, or growing comfortable where we are at in our relationship with Him. Always desiring more to know Him more deeply and more intimately; to where we are totally One, even as He and the Father are One!

Hebrews 3:14-15 goes on to say, "For WE ARE MADE PARTAKERS OF CHRIST, IF WE HOLD THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE UNTO THE END; While it is said, Today IF YE WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS, as in the provocation." "We are made partakers of Christ...", meaning the Full Manifestation of Christ/the totality of His Manifestation in and through us! It is on the horizon and could happen any moment. Only the Father knows for sure the exact moment in time, but He has told us to "be ready", "prepare your heart", "the door (of the ark) is being shut", that He has an "appointed time" and that it is closer than we think. He has told us so many things, so we cannot say that we did not know. He has told us to be as the five wise virgins and to keep our lamps full, because the fact is, **when the Father's time is come - He will do all that He has said in the twinkling of an eye.** That is how quickly it will happen! Jesus said that, many have been called, but few will be chosen and found as Faithful and True. **Having been made Partakers in Christ - the Sons of God standing IN and AS ONE with THE SON OF GOD! They will stand AS ONE and manifest all that the Father IS. All creation will see His Glory and through them He will set creation free.**

Notice that little word once again in verse 14 where it says, "if"; because that little word "if" means that it is conditional of your obedience and staying power/abiding to the end. It says, "IF we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." Remember how on fire you

were for God in the beginning, and the confidence that you had then! We are to hold onto that confidence and not let it go for anything. We are to keep that fire alive and burning hot and bright within no matter what. Even in the natural, keeping a fire burning takes hard work. You don't just light it and expect it to burn forever. You have to keep adding fuel/branches of wood and logs that have been cut and split to the fire, other wise it will grow cold and die out.

God has called you "trees" and "branches", and in Romans 12:1, it says that, "...by the mercies of God, you are to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, for this is your reasonable service." We are the fuel that must be cast upon the Fire (which is God Himself) to keep the Love affair we have with the Lord alive and flourishing within us. He has promised that He would never leave us or forsake us, but sometimes we still forsake Him and sin, allowing our hearts to harden, and the flames of our love affair with Him to grown dim and cold. We have to tend our fire and love affair daily, by presenting ourselves to Him a living sacrifice - laying down our will for His by throwing it upon the Fire to be consumed. "IF" we are going to hold fast the beginning of our Confidence steadfast until the end, then this is our reasonable service/the will of God, that we might receive the prize in that twinkling of an eye.

However, "IF" we get into stubbornness and rebellion (and we all have at one time or another), than we will lose the confidence we had at the

beginning; and our fire for God will begin to grow cold and die. God wants us to have that same confidence that we had at the beginning, and keep it alive! We are to be steadfast in holding onto our confidence in Him. It is to be a way of Living for us that is to remain constant until the end.

I am going to tell you one more thing, and it may be really hard for you to hear. But you know what? I have to tell it like it is! Some of God's sons don't have enough fear and respect for the Lord. The reason being - if we did have a proper fear and respect for the Lord, we wouldn't keep doing the same things over and over again. If we really believed that God is Who He says He is, and that He means what He says, we would be much further along in Him than we are now. We would be on fire for Him all the time!

Proverbs 14:26 says, "In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge." An individual that has confidence will fear the Lord. Well what does fear mean? Respect! To respect Him! To respect WHO HE IS, AND BELIEVE THAT WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE AND REAL! To respect and know that He is Love; and He is Joy. That all He wants for us is to have an abundant Life of Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Spirit; a Life of freedom and liberty in the Kingdom of God; and to both inherit and become all that He is through Christ. This is what He is bringing us into. This is the Good News!

However, to bring us into this place in Him, He first has to tear down all the other kingdoms,

principalities, and powers in us, (*"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*) (Ephesians 6:12). He has to deal with and consume every negative thought, every lie, every concept and idea, doctrine and teaching, that is contrary to the Word and Spirit of God. Every thing that we have fed upon and believed that has kept us from walking in the confidence of God, must be torn down and consumed, because they rob us of the Life that He has called us to in Him. If we really respected Him, then no matter how temptation comes to us, we wouldn't yield to it.

I can remember when I first started out in the Lord, and if I did something wrong and had to go to a meeting back then - I started to beat myself up. I kept thinking and telling myself, "I can't go. I can't go." What I was really saying was, "After what has happened this week, I don't have enough (confidence) in me to bring out your Word." In disobeying God, I knew that I had lost my confidence. But I also learned that I didn't have to stay in that state of guilt and self-condemnation. Rather than beat myself up and feed on the negative, I learned to go before my Father and repent. I would immediately go within and get things right between Him and me. Immediately after doing this, His confidence to minister would come back again.

You learn after a few hard lessons that you don't like that other realm (being outside of His confidence). In fact you hate it. I

don't like it down there (in the hells of my mind) with all those fears, worries, anxieties, and guilt. We don't have to keep making the same mistakes that cost us the "Confidence" and "Peace" we have in Him. If your heart hardens towards God, you don't have the Love for people that you have in Him. That is not the Nature of God, and that is not what He created you for. He created us to be like Him, and God is "Confidence".

Today, people are depending on, and have confidence in their money and credit cards. Some put their confidence in other people. But how devastated they are when the kingdoms they believe in come crashing down around them. Anything and anybody that they put their trust/confidence in will let them down, because they have worshipped and even made these things (and sometimes people) as other gods to themselves. Lord, have Mercy! When God brings the stock market down, I can't imagine what is going to happen to not only this country (America), but to the whole world! Nevertheless, God will have Mercy upon us, because our confidence and trust is in Him!

Once again, Proverbs 14:26 says, "IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS STRONG CONFIDENCE; and His children shall have a place of refuge." I got really excited about this Word when God gave it to me, because it is dealing with all these other kingdoms that people put their confidence and trust in. We are bombarded with so many thoughts that you need to know WHO you are IN CHRIST. The fear of the Lord is clean and pure.

In Psalms 111:10 it says, "The FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM; A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE all they THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENT (Jesus said in John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."): His praise endureth for ever." And in Proverbs 9:10 it says that, "The FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM; and KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY is UNDERSTANDING."

If you really understand this, then you will stay on track all the way through your walk in Him; and the deeper you go in Him, the more Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding you will gain. It will come by KNOWING THAT GOD'S WORD IS TRUE, because the FEAR OF THE LORD truly is THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM. As you walk in the fear of the Lord, and as One with Christ through your relationship with Him, He will lay more Wisdom upon your heart and mind, and bring you to the place where you walk in the strong Confidence of Christ.

Psalm 19:9-14 says, "The FEAR of the LORD is CLEAN, enduring for ever: the JUDGMENTS of the LORD are TRUE and RIGHTEOUS altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned". In other words, by the fear of the Lord, and by His Word - we are warned. "...and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion

over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." He is saying, "God, I am tired of sin having dominion over me. Don't let these things have dominion over me, because then (if You do this Lord) I will be upright and innocent." When you walk in the fear of the Lord, you will walk in Righteousness all the time. In doing so, you will walk in True Confidence! "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my Strength, and my Redeemer."

Proverbs 25:19 says, "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint." Just like in the verse above, God has some unfaithful sons. In the early part of the ministry it was a real learning experience. I had to learn who I could trust and depend on. There were certain sons that would say, "I will do it. You can count on me." But when the time came, they would not be there. They never showed up, and never did what they said. Over time you learn who you can depend on to follow through with what they say. An unfaithful man is like a broken tooth (and not only that) he has a foot that is out of joint. In other words, he has a crooked walk! This speaks of his character and who they are.

Proverbs 3:25-26 tells us to, "Be not afraid of sudden fear (terror), neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken." In the Amplified Bible this same passage reads as, "BE NOT AFRAID of sudden terror AND

PANIC,...” There might be some sudden terror in our country, or in another part of the world, but He is saying, “BE NOT AFRAID of sudden terrors. Do not panic.” “...nor of the stormy blast or the storm and ruin of the wicked when it comes [for you will be guiltless]...” Do you know how to get confidence? God has to bring storms your way. There is no way around it. Through the storms your confidence becomes stronger and stronger, as you are strong in Christ! It says, “BE NOT AFRAID of sudden terror AND (DO NOT) PANIC, nor of the stormy blast or the storm and ruin of the wicked when it comes [for you will be guiltless], FOR THE LORD SHALL BE YOUR CONFIDENCE, FIRM AND STRONG,”. Make note of this scripture and get it into your head. Meditate upon it when any terror or sudden thing happens. God doesn’t want you to panic and lose your confidence. Again, HE has said (and His Word is True), “FOR THE LORD SHALL BE YOUR CONFIDENCE, FIRM AND STRONG, and shall keep your foot from being caught [in a trap or some hidden danger].” Isn’t God Good? Remember this verse!

Psalm 118:8 in the Amplified Bible says, “It is better to trust and take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in man.” Isn’t that the truth!

Another way to keep your confidence is by having Peace in your mind. Philippians chapter 4:4-7 goes right along with this, because it is the Peace of God that keeps our hearts and minds in the “Confidence” of God. Philippians 4:4 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” The Word of God says

that we are to “Rejoice always”, but we don’t always do that. Do we? Sometimes when we’re facing a problem, we stop rejoicing and begin to look at our situations with our natural eyes and understanding rather than go immediately to God in prayer and rejoice. Then, because of the appearance of things our minds begin to wander (away from the Lord WHO IS our Confidence, our Peace, our Strength, our Refuge, and our Redeemer), and our own action then opens the door for the enemy to come in and begin bombarding us with one negative thought after another, causing us to lose our peace and our confidence.

Philippians 4:5-6 goes on to say, “Let your moderation (strength of mind/resolve/confidence) be known unto all men. THE LORD IS AT HAND. BE CAREFUL (anxious) FOR NOTHING; but IN EVERY THING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD.” To keep your confidence, you need to get in prayer. When you do that, the Peace of God will fill your mind and cancel out all those thoughts that bombard and rob you of your confidence. When you get in prayer, it says that you are to make your requests known unto the God with THANKSGIVING (Praise and Worship) in your heart. He then answers you by flooding your mind with His Peace. “AND THE PEACE OF GOD, which passeth all understanding, SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.”

When you come to Him in the FEAR OF THE LORD, REJOICING and in PRAYER, MAKING YOUR REQUESTS KNOW WITH THANKSGIVING in your heart, God will literally PASSOVER all your natural understanding and reasoning that you had been leaning upon; and as I said, He will flood your mind with His Peace which passes all understanding to keep your heart and mind in Confidence through Christ Jesus.

Notice that it says in Philippians 4:7 that, “...THE PEACE OF GOD, which passeth all understanding, SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS”. It will not be done in your own strength, but through Christ Jesus. It is Christ who is doing this. He is not only your source of Confidence, but He is Confidence itself - manifested for all creation to see. Confidence is trusting, believing, and walking wholeheartedly in God, and comes by doing the will of the Father. When you are in prayer, making your requests known to the Father, a communion and exchange takes place between you, and what He gives you is Confidence/Himself/His Love, Mercy and Grace/His Power, Strength and Authority/His Peace, Wisdom, and Understanding. God wants us to walk in that “Confidence” and keep it to the very end.

In the Amplified Bible, Isaiah 30:15 says, “For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning [to Me] and resting [in Me] you shall be saved; in quietness and in [trusting] confidence shall be your strength...”. Quietness in the

mind and Trusting in the Lord is what gives you Strength! Sometimes the Lord will allow you to have problems in your body, and to use myself as an example, I was crying out to God because of the pain in my back. He has done some restoring in my back. He has made me a lot stronger than I used to be, and I thank God for what He has done! However, every now and then I still have some aches and pains. As I cried out to God about this, just like He spoke to Paul, he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." He said, "I become Strong in you when you are weak."

Paul came to the place where he finally rejoiced in all his infirmities, persecutions and reproaches, because he knew that that was where the anointing came from. In 2Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul wrote, "...Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." You receive a greater anointing when you suffer for Christ's sake. The sufferings cause more death (to self) in you, and the more death and dying to self that takes place in you, the more Christ is being quickened and becoming stronger in you. The more you walk in Oneness with Him, the more you are strengthened and empowered in Him as well. The Life of Christ is literally swallowing up the death in you. God is made strong in you through your weakness,

because when you are weak, this is when His Strength is most clearly seen and manifest both in and through you. The same is true in the natural: the darker it is to the natural eye; the Brighter a candle's Light appears to be. As well, the Brighter the Light, the more darkness that is expelled.

So God is made Stronger in you through your weakness; and the more you suffer weakness for Christ's sake, the stronger, and more powerful the anointing you have through your Oneness with Him. John the Baptist also understood this and said in John 3:30 that, "**HE MUST INCREASE, but I must decrease.**" In Luke 7:28, Jesus recognized how great the anointing had been that was put upon John's life for all that he had sacrificed and suffered for Christ. Jesus said that, "**Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist...**". John was given a greater anointing than any other prophet to have lived to that point in time.

Isn't that amazing! "Lord, You are something else!" But that is how God is, and works. You really need to meditate upon this Word and guard your "Confidence". Watch and check what you are thinking. If doubt and/or unbelief tries to get in your mind, bring those thoughts immediately into captivity. Do not give them any place in your life, because they will steal from you, that which is most precious. Your "Confidence" and "Peace" in Christ! We are to cast "...down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every

thought to the obedience of Christ." (2Corinthians 10:5).

There is truth in that little saying, "**Trust (have Confidence in) and obey. There is no other way!**" This is so true!