

## Confidence and the Christian

### Introduction

- A. What would you say about a person who could truthfully call God his Father; who was completely forgiven; who had been promised that all his needs and requests would be met; who was assured that he could make a success out of this life; who could live knowing that all facets of his life would somehow work for his good; and who could always look forward, with certainty, to a life of heavenly bliss after death?
- B. It would be an understatement to say, "He could live with confidence!"
- C. The Christian is one who has all such promises and provisions. This should result in great confidence in our lives.

### I. The Importance of Confidence.

For this saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength; and ye would not. Isaiah 30:15

Observation: This was written to the Jewish people during a time of political upheaval. They had tried to find strength in an alliance with Egypt. God's prophet rebuked them for not trusting God -- they had failed to realize the provision for strength they had in Him.

### II. The Basis of Confidence.

Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations. Deut. 7:9

Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it. I Thess. 5:24

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised. Hebrews 10:23

Observation: The Christian is one who understands the faithfulness of God. He knows that God is not fickle or arbitrary. He can trust God because he knows that whatever God has promised -- He will fulfill!

### III. The Meaning of Confidence.

- A. The Christian has confidence concerning life after death, II Cor. 5:6,8.

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord ... We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

B. The Christian has confidence concerning his acceptance with God, Eph. 3:12.

In Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him.

C. The Christian has confidence concerning God's keeping power, Phil. 1:6.

Being confident of this very thing, that He Which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

D. The Christian has confidence concerning pleasing God, I John 2:28.

And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming\*

E. The Christian has confidence concerning prayer, I John 5:14,15.

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us; and if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.

#### Conclusion

A. The Christian has all of these promises -- but may live without confidence -- if he does not accept them and put them into practice.

B. The key to confidence is to understand the greatness of God, the meaning of His promises, and then to put them into practice.

For the Lord shall be thy confidence . . . . Proverbs 3:26

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence . . . . Proverbs 14:26

Victor M. Matthews