



GROWING – My Personal Confidence 10th May 2020 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Read Ephesians 3:1-13

"My confidence is easy to shake. I am very well aware of all of my flaws. I am aware of all the insecurities that I have."

Taylor Swift (Highest earning female singer in 2019)

2. What builds inner confidence?
3. What is your source of confidence? (Fill in the primary factors on each line below; for example - Family, Colleagues, Friends, Careers, Employer, Government...?)

- **Success**
- **Encouragement**
- **Trust**
- **Approval**
- **Financial gain - independence**
- **Great Appearance**
- **Good Health**
- **Self-esteem**

Engage:

4. What damages inner confidence?
5. Which would you tick? Tick left (blue) or right (red) for each line based on how your confidence levels are at the moment:

Success	Failure
Encouragement	Discouragement
Trust	Betrayal

Approval	Disapproval
Financial Gain – Independence	Financial loss – Dependence
Great Appearance	Fading Appearance
Good Health	Poor Health
Self-esteem	Self-doubt

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.”

Proverbs 13:12 NLT

6. What makes your heart sick? Why?
7. Why is a ‘dream fulfilled’ like ‘a tree of life?’

“We don’t need self-confidence we need God-confidence.”

Joyce Meyer

8. Ephesians Chapter 3 – Paul wants to build the confidence of the Gentile believers. He reminds them he is a prisoner for their benefit – Gentiles are important to God – not 2nd class.
9. The message was going to the gentiles, because of Paul’s obedience!

Framework:

10. What is God-Given confidence? (It starts with really knowing God)

“When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles. . . assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me.”

Ephesians 3:1-3 NLT

- Paul (founding Pastor of Ephesian Churches) now in Prison in Rome
 - He Wrote to the Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon
11. Why didn’t prison dampen Pauls confidence?
 12. **Confidence grows as we walk with God** – Read and discuss Ephesians 3:12-13
 13. Are you confident before God?
 14. Have you lost heart?
 15. How can you build confidence?

“...blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.”

Jeremiah 17:1 NLT

➤ **Your Journey A->B:**

Step 1: Eyes off ME, onto HIM

Step 2: Feet firmly on His path “trust as He leads”

Step 3: Recognise God’s blessing

16. What am I doing with my life? Is it moving towards God’s purpose OR away?

17. **Test:** Is God blessing what I’m doing?

18. What are God’s blessings

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.”

Psalm 37:23 NLT

19. Confidence grows as we TRUST in Him – Read Numbers 6:23-27

➤ **Power of Spoken Words!**

- *The Lord – source of material blessing; ‘Keep you’ - divine protection, victory*
- *His ‘Face Shine’ – giving light, knowledge wisdom, understand His purposes/grace*
- *‘Turn His Face’ – divine favour, approval; Peace/shalom, balance and absence of strife*

20. God speaking NOW: “The Blessing” based on Exodus 6

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

Deuteronomy 7:9 ESV

➤ **God’s desire is that we have confidence in Him to lead us so that He can fully bless every area of our lives!**