

**BUILDING BLOCK GROUPS**

**CONFIDENCE**

The word confidence means (1) full trust; (2) a belief in one's powers or abilities; and (3) a confidential communication. Confidence means to have trustworthiness, reliability or a belief in one's powers or abilities.  
  
Our confidence is grown out of our dependence upon God. A person may think, "I can manage on my own." We can have the confidence of victory only if we put our confidence in God and not ourselves. As we see in **Read: 1 Cor. 2:1-5** - confidence is a gift of God's Spirit. It is so encouraging to know that I can always turn to God.   
  
Our confidence should not be reliant upon our abilities, but upon the Lord. Paul's confidence was not in his intellect or speaking ability, but in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit was helping and guiding him.

It is important to studiously prepare for preaching and/or teaching. In II Timothy 2:15 we are told to study. If we study, we will know what we are believing. The more we study, we learn more. We are to be able to give an answer to every man who asks us what we believe. We are told this in I Peter 3:15( Turn to). We, as Christians are to diligently study to have this confidence.

You are so precious that God sent his only Son to die for you (John 3:16). Due to God's unconditional love, God places such value on you, you need never fear personal threats or difficult trials. These can't shake God's love or remove his Spirit from within you. Our confidence is based upon the love that God has for us, that He gave his only begotten Son. We have mentioned God's unconditional love.

Name the three types of love 1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We need to be reminded that God loves us "warts and all". What I mean is that God loves us regardless of our flaws. But this doesn't mean that God will take away all your troubles ( read Matthew 10:16).

The real test of value is how well something holds up under the wear, tear, and abuse of everyday life. Those who stand up for Christ in spite of their troubles truly have lasting value and will receive great rewards………**(Read Matthew 5:11-12).**

Don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows.

(Matthew 10:31)   
  
Confidence from God means a new outlook on life's problems. With it we have the determination to confront the challenges we face in life.

What problems have caused you to lose your confidence?

1. Self-esteem

2. Fear

3. Self conscience

4. Acceptance

5. Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Examine**: Psalm 65:5; Isaiah 30:15; Hebrews 10:35; Psalm 118:8-9; Hebrews 13:6

We are warned regarding false confidence and results thereof.

**Read and Discuss**: Psalm 20:6-8

Throughout the Bible we are told of instances where confidence has been misplaced. We are to follow God's commandments.

In what ways is confidence misplaced and mis-used? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DISCUSS AND READ: Acts 5:17-26  
  
 **KEY BIBLE VERSE: Acts 5:21**

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| Confidence is required in Christ's service. Don't expect everyone to react favorably when you share something asdynamic as your faith in Christ. Some will be jealous, frightened,or threatened. Expect some negative reactions, and rememberthat you must be more concerned about serving Godthan the reactions of people (read and reflect on Acts 5:29). Who has tried to rob you of your confidence, but you refused to give in? |

## Discussion and study questions: (1) What is the origin of our confidence? (2) What is the purpose of confidence?

## (3) If we don't study, how can we give someone an answer to the hope that is within us?