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Godly Confidence

Most everyone wants to have confidence in their ability to accomplish whatever task is at hand. A lack of confidence in your ability to do so usually results in failure or at least an inadequate outcome.

There are two basic types of confidence under consideration: fleshly and godly. Simply put, fleshly confidence is the dependence upon one's self or humanity. Godly confidence is having confidence in the only one we can truly trust, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 17:5-6 tells us that the man who puts his trust in mankind, or sinful flesh, is an indication that his heart has departed from godliness. **“Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. 6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.”** Thus, anyone who puts his trust or confidence in his own self or abilities will surely be disappointed.

The wise man Solomon establishes the truth of where our trust should be to give us godly confidence in Proverbs 3:5-6, **“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”** However, we find ourselves ignoring the Lord's counsel and relying on what some man may say which always ends in a lack of godly confidence.

All too often, we witness those who have confidence in their wealth - financial prowess, or intellect, as a substitute for trusting in God. To show how bad fleshly confidence can be, notice the words of Solomon in Proverbs 25:19, **“Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.”** That just doesn't sound good to me. Unless we learn beyond a shadow of doubt where the appropriate object of trust is, we will be as one who has no hope and can be **“carried about with every wind of doctrine”** (Ephesians 4:14). We then lose sight of the right kind confidence we need in our daily lives as shown in the analogy of the lowly sparrows in Matthew 10:29-31. The Lord promised that

not one of them would fall without his knowledge. Remember well verse 31 when you need help and are lacking in godly confidence, **“Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.”**

Returning to the book of Jeremiah, we can find the benefits for the man who puts his trust and confidence where it belongs. Listen what God told Jeremiah, **“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit”** (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

We should all endeavor to NOT be as the scrub bush in the desert land, but rather have confidence in the words of our Lord. We then shall be as **“a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river.”** What a blessing the promises of God are to His little children. May you meditate on these things that your confidence be in the Lord Jesus Christ and not upon man. **“Think About It!”**