

## Critical Balance

Balance is critical. Without it we could never work above ground level. Without it many critical jobs could not be done. I once worked on C130 military aircraft. The first few weeks I crawled on my hands and knees anywhere on top of the plane. I marveled at the agility of long-term workers who just walked casually where I crawled. Within 6 to 8 weeks, I was walking there also. Within 3 months or so it actually felt normal. *But that was only because I had a practiced balance!* Without it I would fall.

The same is true in our spiritual life in numerous ways. There's an old saying in Christianity: *The truth, out of balance, always leads to heresy.* I agree. Here we examine one specific and vital balance that must be sought by every faithful Christian - it's the balance between confidence and humility.

We live in a culture that makes a severe and serious mistake: *believing that confidence is arrogance.* That cannot be for a mature Christian. Why? Because God commands confidence yet He forbids arrogance. Consider Hebrews 10:35, 36:

*Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.*

Verse 35 is actually a command (imperative mood), "...do not throw away your confidence," (NASB). Confidence is good! The 1901 American Standard calls it "boldness." It has a "great reward." In verse 36 God, Himself connects confidence to our "endurance." Confidence bolsters endurance – never forget that!

But arrogance is forbidden. In fact, it is an actual sin (2 Corinthians 12:20; James 4:16). The sin of pride in the heart leads to boasting and arrogance.

What about the "balance?" We must **never** try to balance confidence and arrogance. We must balance **confidence and humility**. They are both good things but must be in balance. Confidence builds endurance. Humility helps us remember that whatever abilities or intelligence we have are gifts from God. Since they are gifts from someone else, we must not be arrogant as if we created those gifts ourselves! In Acts 12:21-23 Herod took personal credit for his abilities and did not give God the glory for giving him those abilities.

What happens when you lose your balance? You fall. What happens when you lose the spiritual balance of godly confidence and personal humility? You fall! Use your gifts from God well. And keep your personal humility healthy. That way, you can follow God's guidance in Ephesians 5:8, "...now you are light in the Lord; **walk as** children of light." Walk keeping your careful balance between confidence and humility. It's critical!

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