

Courage and Confidence

Courage is a rare commodity in today's world. I'm convinced that a large part of that is the general lack of confidence, but not the kind of confidence we usually think.

"Self-confidence" is not a bad thing, unless it is accompanied with arrogance and pride. Yet God speaks of confidence 46 times in scripture. In 2 Kings 18, 19 we see Assyria *thinking* that Hezekiah, king of Judah had confidence in their ally, Egypt. In reality, Hezekiah had confidence in God. (See 2 Kings 18:19-25.) And that confidence led to both trust in God, (2 Kings 19:8-11) and ultimately to victory for the people of God (2 Kings 19:32-17).

Hezekiah had confidence in God, in His message from the prophet Isaiah (chapter 19) and subsequently saw victory through the power of God!

Confidence is found throughout the Book! The enemies of God's people *lost* their confidence when they realized that the Israelites had the help of God (Nehemiah 6:16). Eliphaz recognized that Job's confidence was in God (Neh. 4:6). Asaph, recognized as a deeply wise man, wrote in Psalm 78:5-7,

That they should teach them to their children,
That the generation to come might know, *even* the
children *yet* to be born,
That they may arise and tell *them* to their children,
That they should put their ***confidence*** in God
And **not forget** the works of God,
But keep His commandments....

We should remember that our confidence must include the admonition "not forget the works of God" and "keep His commandments.

Ray Wallace