



# GROWING – My Personal Confidence 10<sup>th</sup> 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:

<b>Success</b>	<b>Failure</b>
<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>Discouragement</b>
<b>Trust</b>	<b>Betrayal</b>

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!**