

COVENANT CONFIDENCE

“¹⁰All the paths of Yahweh are loving kindness and truth to such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. ¹¹For your name’s sake, Yahweh, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. ¹²What man is he who fears Yahweh? He shall instruct him in the way that he shall choose. ¹³ His soul shall dwell at ease. His offspring shall inherit the land. ¹⁴The friendship of Yahweh is with those who fear him. He will show them his covenant.” (Psalm 25:10-14, WEB)

“I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:20, WEB)

Covenant Confidence is not self-confidence. It is Christ-Confidence. It is confidence in God’s Word. It is confidence in God’s promises. It produces the belief and trust that God will do what He has promised in our lives. It is produced within us because Jesus is within us. It is the kind of confidence that takes God at His Word. I remember Rev. Billy Joe Grandstaff years ago saying something like this, “If God is who God says God is, then I am who God says I am.” “If God can do what God says God can do, then I can do what God says I can do.” “If God has what God says God has, then I have what God says I have.” That is *covenant confidence* in a nut-shell.

It is very popular for folks in this world emphasize the importance self-confidence. However, the believer knows that in his flesh dwells, **“no good thing.”** (Romans 7:18) The flesh, including the natural mind, is corrupt. Therefore, the person who has a “living faith” in Christ does not rely on himself. He relies on Christ. He does not rely

on the flesh. He relies on Christ within him. He realizes he is a new creation, **“old things are passed away, and all things have become new.”** The new man is alive with the power of Christ. The flesh still remains, but he does not rely on it. He relies on the new spirit, he is renewing his mind, and he is trusting Christ to manifest His life through the members of his body.

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, WEB)

The new covenant believer knows that the fleshly nature has been crucified with Christ (Romans 6:11). Yet, this person is still alive. Now he is alive in and by Christ. The the new covenant believer now has a new life empowered by Christ who is dwelling within him. Therefore, the *confidence* the believer has comes from Christ who is living His life within him. He is a new man and is indwelt by Christ. He is confident in this position. This is Christ-confidence.

“I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13, WEB)

Therefore, the new covenant believer is not less confident than those in the world around him. He is more confident. He is confident because he knows that Christ is within him and through this vital union he can accomplish anything God calls him to. This is what Paul meant in Philippians 4:13. Regardless of the challenges the believer may face, regardless of the ups and downs that may come his way, he has the confidence to do whatever is good and necessary because he is a new creation in Christ and is united with and empowered by Christ Jesus who is living His life joined with him.

STRENGTH AND HELP

The covenant guaranteed the weaker nation, tribe or individual was protected by the stronger one with whom they were joined to by the covenant. There was an exchange of items between the two parties, perhaps a spear or weapon. David often made an appeal for the strength of God in the old covenant. He lifted up his soul to God. God gave him strength to overcome his enemies. The new covenant believer is joined with the strength of Christ and puts on His weapons (Ephesians 6:10). We exchange our weakness for His strength. He gives us His weapons to wear.

David walked in confidence in the old covenant in bits and pieces, but better than most. God did great things in his life even with his weaknesses. He constantly asked for God's help. In Psalm 25 he continually asks for God's forgiveness, His instruction and His help. He stood on the promises of the old covenant and incessantly asked for God to show Him His paths. He could possess only a limited expression of the benefits of God's power due to the limits of the covenant he was in. And, this covenant was better than anything anyone else had at that time. Though the old covenant had weaknesses in it, still David was able to accomplish much. The old covenant offered the best blessings in the world compared to any other system of its time. Although not flawlessly, David walked in these blessings. Nevertheless, he and others of the old covenant looked for a better day (Acts 2:29-35, Hebrews 11:39-40).

The new covenant believer can walk in covenant confidence in much more of its fullness because of the victory of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 12:1-2). David needed to learn the ways of God in order to walk in the covenant more effectively in his time. He continually asked God to teach him. This should be our

prayer also.

“¹⁹Having therefore, brothers, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the way which he dedicated for us, a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹and having a great priest over God's house, ²²let's draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and having our body washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:19-22a, WEB)

The new covenant believer has confidence that he can approach God and receive the strength and help needed. Jesus has opened up the way into heaven and heaven's storehouse of blessings (Ephesians 1:3). The believer who knows this can draw upon the help of heaven. Regardless of the covenant by which one is living, it is important to know the blessings of the covenant in order to walk in them. Ignorance is not bliss.

WALKING IN COVENANT BLESSING

“¹It shall happen, if you shall listen diligently to Yahweh your God's voice, to observe to do all his commandments which I command you today, that Yahweh your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ²All these blessings will come upon you, and overtake you, if you listen to Yahweh your God's voice. ³You shall be blessed in the city, and you shall be blessed in the field. ⁴You shall be blessed in the fruit of your body, the fruit of your ground, the fruit of your animals, the increase of your livestock, and the young of your flock. ⁵Your basket and your kneading trough shall be blessed. ⁶You shall be blessed when you come in, and you shall be blessed when you go out. ⁷Yahweh will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be struck before you. They will come out against you one way, and will flee

before you seven ways. ⁸Yahweh will command the blessing on you in your barns, and in all that you put your hand to. He will bless you in the land which Yahweh your God gives you. ⁹Yahweh will establish you for a holy people to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you shall keep the commandments of Yahweh your God, and walk in his ways. ¹⁰All the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by Yahweh's name, and they will be afraid of you. ¹¹Yahweh will grant you abundant prosperity, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground, in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers to give you. ¹²Yahweh will open to you his good treasure in the sky, to give the rain of your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You will lend to many nations, and you will not borrow. ¹³Yahweh will make you the head, and not the tail. You will be above only, and you will not be beneath; if you listen to the commandments of Yahweh your God, which I command you today, to observe and to do, ¹⁴and shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them." (Deuteronomy 28:1-14, WEB)

The above passage is an example of the kind of blessings God promised His people in the old covenant. Think of the level of confidence any believer may have who is able to walk with the assurance that God's blessing and favor is before them, behind them, and all around them. Think of the feeling of confidence that comes in knowing that everything you touch is going to be blessed (Psalm 1:3). Imagine the certainty and conviction by which a man of the covenant does his work and carries out the activities of his day.

KNOWING AND OBEYING

"All the paths of Yahweh are loving kindness and truth to such as keep his covenant and his testimonies." (Psalm 25:10, WEB)

The covenants of that time and locale listed the blessings that were available for keeping the covenant and the curses that would come upon those who broke the covenant pledges. Knowing the ins and outs of the covenant was essential for successfully keeping it. Ignorance of it was a sure recipe for failure and disaster. Therefore, the people of those areas and times knew the covenant laws they were obligated to keep and what blessings they could expect in return should they ever need help and need to draw upon the oaths and pledges made by the other party.

David knew many of the benefits of the old covenant. He knew he needed to learn more about the benefits and blessings of it. He knew this would be essential for his well-being. Therefore he prayed, "⁴Show me your ways, Yahweh. Teach me your paths. ⁵Guide me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation, I wait for you all day long." (Psalm 25:4-5, WEB)

The new covenant believer also needs to learn about the new covenant. Thankfully, we have the Spirit of truth dwelling within us teaching us and guiding us into all truth. The disciples were still operating under the old covenant when Jesus was in the flesh on earth teaching them. He promised a higher level of living and learning once He went away in body and the Holy Spirit came to dwell with them and within them. This is what is available to every new covenant believer to draw upon today.

"¹²I have yet many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. ¹³However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take from what is mine, and will

declare it to you. ¹⁵All things whatever the Father has are mine; therefore I said that he takes of mine, and will declare it to you.” (John 16:12-15, WEB)

The Holy Spirit has come. Now the indwelling Christ will teach us and guide us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We can walk confidently in every truth of the new covenant. He will enable every believer to walk in everything the new covenant promises. This is foundational for our new covenant confidence.

WORKING IT OUT

“²¹Beloved, if our hearts don’t condemn us, we have boldness toward God; ²²and whatever we ask, we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight. ²³This is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, even as he commanded. ²⁴He who keeps his commandments remains in him, and he in him. By this we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit which he gave us.” (1 John 3:21-24, WEB)

The law of the new covenant is the perfect law of liberty. It is walking in love. If we are walking in love we have no condemnation in our hearts. We have confidence in prayer. We are motivated by love and therefore make petitions that are based on love. We can be confident that God hears and answers these requests. We are joined in covenant with God. We are abiding in Him and He is dwelling in us. The Holy Spirit is pouring the love of God into our hearts (Romans 5:5). We pray with *covenant confidence*.

We can be confident that God is doing a great work of love in us. The Holy Spirit is working to bring us closer and closer into the

perfect will of God (Romans 8:26-27). The Apostle Paul was sure of this truth. We are not left alone to figure it all out by ourselves. Notice below how Paul relates this to the believers in the New Testament.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6, WEB)

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6, ESV)

You might notice that in the new covenant as well as the old covenant, prayer is one of the primary and instrumental aspects of a believer walking in the promises of the covenant. Paul prayed for the believers in Philippi to this end and was confident that God would bring it to pass in their lives. He had *covenant confidence*. He prayed this way for believers everywhere.

“³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ; ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without defect before him in love; ⁵having predestined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his desire, ⁶to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely gave us favor in the Beloved, ⁷in whom we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him ¹⁰to an administration of the fullness of the times, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things

on the earth, in him; ¹¹ in whom also we were assigned an inheritance, having been foreordained according to the purpose of him who does all things after the counsel of his will.” (Ephesians 1:3-11, WEB)

God has begun a good work in each of us. The practical part of the work God does in us in this life is not yet completed. We do not come to faith in Christ and immediately walk in the fullness of all of His promises. We grow. As we pray, learn, and follow the Holy Spirit we can walk in more and more of the truth of the new covenant. I pray the prayer above for you and I encourage you to pray it for me and every other believer you know. Together we can learn to walk in all of the promises of the new covenant with Christ-Confidence. David walked in *covenant confidence* in the old covenant as displayed in Psalm 25. We surely may walk with *covenant confidence* in the new and better covenant which is based on better promises. Let's go for it!