

Help When I Have Lost Confidence

As we begin to emerge from lockdown, many people are facing a crisis of confidence. Confidence is vitally important for each of us to live life to the full. Chris looked at Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush to show us that God himself is the only true and lasting source of our confidence.

Questions for discussion:

- *"Confidence is so important, because without it we can't live life to the full. We shy away from opportunities and challenges, and this leads to frustrating and dissatisfaction. Low confidence can even discourage us from responding to the call of God on our lives."*
Do you agree with Chris's assessment of the importance of confidence in each of our lives?
- Have you ever faced a time in life where you have felt low on confidence? How did it affect you and how did you deal with it?
- Muhammed Ali once said, *"To be a great champion you must believe you are the best. If you're not, pretend you are."*
Do you think this approach applies to life in general? Why or why not?
- Read (or summarise) Exodus 3:1 – 4:18 together.
- **Confidence in the name of God (his character)**
Chris listed a few of God's names that are revealed to us in the Bible:
 - El Roi – the One who sees me (e.g. Gen. 16:13 & Psalm 139:12)
 - Yahweh Yireh – The Lord will Provide (e.g. Gen. 22)
 - Yahweh Rophe – The Lord Heals (e.g. Ex. 15:26)
 - Yahweh Shalom – The Lord Is Peace (e.g. Judges 6:24)
 - Ish – Husband (e.g. Hosea 2:16, 19-20)
 - Jesus – Saviour (New Testament)

Do you know of any others?

- *"The more we learn about the names of God, the more we will understand His character. The better we know our God, the more confident we will be."*
How can you get to know the character of God better?
- **Confident in the promises of God**
God promises that He will be with Moses. What other promises from God in Scripture have you found helpful?
This blog post may be helpful: <https://www.compassionuk.org/blogs/gods-promises/>
- **Confidence in the power of God**
Have you ever experienced the miraculous power of God?
- *"My power is made perfect in weakness."* (2 Corinthians 12:9)
Why do we so often rely on our own strength rather than asking for God's power?
- **Confidence in the call of God**
"If you are a Christian this morning, it's not by some accident or just because of a choice you have made. It's because God has called you by name, and He wants to lovingly draw

you into his purposes.”

Is this how you think of your walk with God?

- Have you ever felt God calling you to do something? What was that like?
- **Confidence in the family of God**

Read Exodus 4:13-16

Chris didn't have time to make this point on Sunday, but in these verses, God uses one of the people in Moses' family to give him confidence. Although Moses' continual reluctance to do what God was asking made God angry, God also showed immense patience and grace in allowing Moses to go to Pharaoh with his brother, Aaron, who was a more naturally-gifted public speaker.

The New Testament frequently refers to the church as 'the family of God'. What is the role of the church in making us more confident followers of Jesus?

- Aaron played 'second-fiddle' to Moses throughout his life, but his role was nonetheless crucial in enabling the will of God to come to pass.
How can we make ourselves available to be used by God like Aaron was?
- Split into smaller groups and share some things you've been placing your confidence in besides God.
- Pray together that you might draw all your confidence from God. The verses below might be a good passage to pray over one another.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

“Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”