

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Your Faith Can Give You Confidence

I John 5:12-20

¹ Your faith can give you confidence. ²

Confidence ¹ means, in the original language, unreserved speech or not afraid to speak your convictions, to have boldness. ³

Faith must not be based upon how you feel. Emotions are so unpredictable and unstable. ⁴

Faith comes from something far more stable than emotions. Romans, chapter 10, verse 7 says, Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Emotions come as a result of faith! ⁵

How does having confidence help your life?

During the first part of the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco twenty-three men fell to their death. In January of 1933, about halfway through the construction process, a safety net was built underneath the bridge for about \$100,000. Ten men fell into it during the last stage of construction and

¹ παρρησία.

were saved! An amazing side effect of having the net, however, was 25% more work was accomplished each day when the men knew they were safer!

Your faith can give you confidence! ⁶ First John, chapter 5, verses 12 through 20 explain.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him. ² ₇

If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that

² 1 John 5:12-15.

he should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.³ 8

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true — even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.⁴ 9

So, if your faith, based on the word of God, gives you confidence, what are the things you can be confident about? 10

³ | John 5:16-17.

⁴ | John 5:18-20.

I. You Can Be Confident That You Have Eternal Life - v12-13 & 20

You can be confident that you have eternal life. ¹¹

If you have the Son of God, you can have confidence.

Verse 12, He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Have you ever heard, “You can’t really know if you have eternal life until you die”?

There was the story of a man who was carrying a bag of potatoes. He was asked, “How do you know you are saved?” The man loosened his grip and let the potatoes fall to the ground and then, replied, “How do I know I have dropped the bag? I haven’t looked around.” The other man responded, “I guess you can tell by the lessening of the weight.” “Exactly”, said the Christian, “That’s how I know I’m saved!” I have lost the feeling of guilt and have found peace. I have,

simply, trusted the word of God!”⁵ When you trust the word of God, the weight gets less!¹²

Lord Jesus said, **Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.**⁶ In Christ you already have eternal life. So trust it!¹³

If you trust in His name you can have confidence. Notice verse 13, **I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.**¹⁴

What are the elements of faith?¹⁵ Trusting that Jesus is God’s Son and trusting that what the Bible says is true. Right?¹⁶

These elements are necessary to make your faith a saving faith, but they are not what saving faith is.¹⁷ Saving faith is trusting Lord Jesus to do for you what He promised to do for you!¹⁸

If you trust that Jesus is God in the flesh you can have confidence. Verse 20 states this, **We know also that**

⁵ “That Ye Might Know”, I John 5:1-13, Our Daily Bread.

⁶ John 5:24.

the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true — even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ¹⁹

Lord Jesus is God in flesh! John, chapter 1, verse 14, The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. God made Himself fully known and understood in human terms through Lord Jesus. ²⁰

John, chapter 1, verse 1 states that Lord Jesus was to the Father what a word is to the thought it expresses!

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What is the next thing you can be confident about?

⁷ John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

II. You Can Be Confident That Your Prayers Will Be Answered - v14-16

You can be confident that your prayers will be answered. ²²

Let's notice, first, the prayers that will not be answered. ²³

You must have fellowship with God to have your prayers answered. John, chapter 15, verse 7, If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ²⁴

You can make a selfish request and not be answered. That's in James, chapter 4, verse 3, When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ²⁵

A nonbeliever has no assurance of answered prayer. John, chapter 9, verse 31, We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. ²⁶

Next, let's notice the prayers that will be answered. ²⁷

When you pray according to the Lord's will. Verse 14, This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears **US.** ²⁸

That doesn't mean just tacking on to the end of your prayers, "If it be Your will". That is often a cop out for not praying expecting results! ²⁹ It means knowing what God's will is through studying the Bible, prayer and associating with mature Christians.

The Lord's desire for you is usually greater than your desires for you!

Years ago before raisins were packaged a store owner told a little boy he could reach into the jar and take a handful of raisins home with him. When the little guy hesitated, the grocer reached in and grabbed a handful and presented it to the boy. That is when he took what was presented to him. When asked later

why he had hesitated to reach into the bowl, the boy replied, “His hand is bigger than mine!”

A friend of my dad offered me the choice of picking out a gift from several mechanical items. I was young enough to not know much about the quality or value of the items. But I was old enough to trust that dad knew. So I asked him if he would pick the best one out for me. I got the best item because I trusted the one who knew which was the best. You always get the best when you leave the choices to God! ³⁰

When you pray, trust the Lord for the results! Verse 15 says, **And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.**

How do you feel when you pray, and nothing appears to happen? Do you believe that God didn’t hear you or that He doesn’t care? ³¹

Mark, chapter 11, verse 24 says to pray as though it has already been answered. ⁸ ³² Matthew, chapter 21,

⁸ Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

verse 22, **If you believe (trust), you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.** ³³

This brings us to an example of the prayer of a righteous person in verses 16 and 17, **If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. James, chapter 5, verse 16 states, The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.** ³⁴

Intercession for a sinning person can bring forgiveness if they have not committed the **sin that does not lead to death.** ³⁵

So, what's a sin that leads to death? ³⁶

Mark, chapter 3, verse 29 says blasphemy against the Holy Spirit brings death. ⁹ Why? It is a sin that's impossible to repent of. ³⁷

First Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 30 says lack of repentance at the Lord's Table can bring death. ¹⁰ ³⁸

Hebrews, chapter 6, verses 4 through 6, says those who fall away from their faith have crucified Lord Jesus afresh and cannot repent. ¹¹

So, the unforgivable sin is the sin that lacks repentance and a repentant attitude! ³⁹

The final thing you can be confident about is . . .

⁹ Mark 3:29 - But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.

¹⁰ I Corinthians 11:29-30 - For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

¹¹ Hebrews 6:4-6 - It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

III. You Can Be Confident That You Will No Longer Be a Slave to Sin - v18-20

You can be confident that you will no longer be a slave to sin! ⁴⁰

You are slaves to the master you obey, sin and death or obedience and righteousness!

Romans, chapter 6, verse 16, **Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?**

Without Lord Jesus in your life, you are a slave to sin. But Jesus paid the ransom for your sin so you can be free to serve Him! ⁴¹

Born again children of God have been freed from the sin-oriented life. Not having anything to do with that lifestyle will keep Satan from being able to get a hold of you again. Verse 18 concludes, **We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin**; the one

who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ⁴²

James, chapter 4, verse 7 says when you resist the devil, he will flee from you. ¹²

So, how do you treat Satan? The same way Jesus did, with the word of God! Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1 through 11 show us how Lord Jesus did it! ¹³ **Every time Satan tempted the Lord, He responded with scripture He had memorized.** ⁴³

¹² James 4:7 - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

¹³ Matthew 4:1-11 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Then, confess sin you have committed. James, chapter 1, verse 9, I John 1:9 - **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** ⁴⁴

Then, ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit ¹⁴ in that area of your life!

You can, then, plan on living your Christian life victoriously! ⁴⁵

What are the things your faith should give you confidence in?

Eternal life, answered prayer and not remaining a slave to the sin-oriented life!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>

¹⁴ Luke 11:13 - If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!