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# BIBLE TEACHINGS

Practice Boldness & Long-Suffering  
Since Jesus' Advent is Inevitable

(HEBREWS 10:35-37)



DR. EVERTON I. ANDERSON

## Practice Boldness & Long-Suffering since Jesus' Advent (Second coming) is Inevitable

*Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.  
For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive  
the promise: "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry  
(Hebrews 10: 35-37)*

### INTRODUCTION

*Cast not away* – These words are implying that the recipient of this Epistle now had 'confidence' and it would not withdraw of itself, unless he 'cast it away' willfully. In a former passage, chapter 3:14, it says, "We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

In a short space of time following conversion, the recipients of the Gospel message will have to come to terms that, in Jesus Christ they are engaged in a spiritual conflict. But what does this mean? What is involved in the idea of battle or a spiritual fight? Three thoughts at least are involved. According to the Apostle Paul epistles:

First, it's an **[inward battle]**,

*But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members (Rom. 7:23).*

Second, it's with an **[invisible foe]**,

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world (Eph. 6:12).*

Thirdly, it is a **[fight of faith]**,

*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called (1 Tim. 6:12).*

However, we must remember when we are experiencing afflictions, that we have a sound Spiritual heritage; we have to be strong and we have to display patience. Therefore, when the writer says, "Cast not away your confidence," it means don't discard 'your liberty of access' to God; do not forsake your title and right of approach to His throne of grace, your birthright as His sons and daughters and the clear evidence you have of His favor.

There is a reference here to cowardly soldiers who throw away their shields and run away when the battle gets tough. But, the child of God must be bold, taking the fight to our enemy. “The command to fight (*agonize*, Greek, lit. ‘to contend for a prize’) is generally supposed to be an allusion to the Olympic Games and this seems supported by the cognate use of the noun *agon*,” [Donald Guthrie, *The Pastoral Epistles*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries].

### **Study Outline:**

- I. Confident People are Recognizable.
- II. Confident People’s Spirits are Infectious.
- III. Confidence Procured in Providential Care.

**Supplementary Study Passage:** Ephesians 6.

### **I. Confident People are Recognizable.**

They have that special ‘something’ that sets them apart from the group. What is it?

Their sense of direction; an assurance that they know where they’re going.

Their awareness of their own abilities.

Their sincerity.

Their past successes.

Their ability to make eye contact and use body language.

In a word: *confidence*

#### **A. Paul had it.**

Listen to him in Philippians:

*...I have learned [during a lifetime of walking with God] the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens, when I have enough to eat and when I go hungry, when I have more than I need and when I do not have enough. I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength (Phil. 4:12-13 NCV).*

Paul rests in the assurance that his strength comes from Christ alone. Knowing that gave him the ability to handle every circumstance he encountered. Confidence is taking your present situation, whatever obstacle you’re facing, whatever limitation you’re living with, whatever chronic condition wears you down, whatever has smashed your dreams, whatever factors in life that tend to push you under and admitting you don’t like it, but never saying ‘*I can’t cope.*’ As soon as you say, ‘*I can’t cope,*’ you’re declaring two things: (i) contradicting the promises of God; (ii) and failing to draw on the resources that He’s already given you.

Confidence means having the ability to stand up to any test, because Christ has made His strength available through you. Paul says, *"I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances."* What does he mean? 'I have passed through all these states; I know how to conduct myself in each, and how to extract good from all.' Paul had passed through many things especially the hardships, so he had learned the lessons 'perfectly.' He was thoroughly instructed, fully initiated into the mysteries of poverty and want, and of the supporting hand of God in the whole.

Confidence is not a habit which can be acquired by frequent exercise, but it is a disposition which comes only by grace. We can do all things, *through Christ who strengthens.*

### **B. The Advantages of affliction.**

We can be confident even in our afflictions, because there is a value in it. When Paul sought the Lord concerning his *thorn in the flesh*, his prayer was refused. However, the Lord gave him an assurance; he was promised strength, spiritual vigor-vitality, energy in weakness.

*For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong (2 Cor. 12:8-10 KJV).*

The servant of God must be prepared to suffer according to the will of God, but has no warrant to throw away his or her life, or taking unnecessary risks. Each one can say, *"My times are in thy hand,"* and be satisfied to leave them there. Most of God's choicest servants have been apparently handicapped by some infirmity. But they have been kept humble and so useful instruments in His kingdom.

## **II. Confident People's Spirits are Infectious.**

It spreads throughout their sphere of influence. How many giant-killers were in Saul's army? None! When Goliath challenged the armies of God, they quaked with fear. Yet David, who came and brought food to his brothers, sized up the situation, went out in faith and killed the giant.

After David became king, how many other giant-killers arose in Israel? Many! Listen to 1 Chronicles 20:4-8 AMP,

*...then Sibbecai the Hushathite slew Sippai, of the sons of the giant, and they were subdued.*

*There was war again with the Philistines, and Elhanan son of Jair slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.*

*And again there was war at Gath, where was a man of great stature who had twenty-four fingers and toes, six on each hand and each foot...when he defied Israel, Jonathan son of Shimea, David's brother, slew him.*

*These were born to the giant [clan] in Gath, and they fell by the hands of David and his servants.*

Now why do you suppose there were no giant-killers in Saul's army? Because Saul himself wasn't one! However, under David's leadership they were numerous, because David was a giant-killer! This illustrates that 'it takes one to make one'; a principle that runs throughout the Bible! When you develop confidence, those around you, your friends, family and associates will increase their confidence levels too. Why? Because confidence breeds confidence, it is contagious! The writer exhorts, *"Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward"* (AMP).

### **III. Confidence Procured in Providential Care.**

#### **A. Establish your worth according to God's value system, not the world's.**

*"The very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows"* (Matt. 10:30-31).

The least circumstances of the Christian life are regulated, not merely by that general providence which extends to all things, but by a particular care which fits and directs all things to the design of their salvation, causing them all to cooperate for their present and eternal good. Have confidence in Christ's goodness, for He who so dearly purchased you will miraculously preserve and save you.

God demonstrated your importance to Him in two great acts. First, He created you in His own image, which means you have creative abilities. Second, had you been the only person who ever lived, He'd still have sent His Son to redeem you. That makes you priceless! Those two unchanging truths should be the enduring basis of your self-worth.

## **B. Surround yourself with confidence-builders not confidence-busters.**

Confidence-busters think themselves to be so religious, and yet do not bridle their tongue (Jas 1:26). *The tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things..., how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!* (Jas 3:5). If you desire for your confidence to be built up, stay clear from opinionated folks, stubborn and unyielding. They will extract every fiber of trust, assurance and belief in one's own abilities from you.

### ▪ **Onesiphorus Epitome of 'kindness.'**

The particular help given by *Onesiphorus* is described in the words of Paul "*He often refreshed me*" (2Tim. 1:16), conjuring up the idea that the presence of his friend provided a special tonic. As *Moffatt* aptly expresses it, *'he braced me up.'* ('He had my back') Although *Onesiphorus* help may have included material assistance, his fellowship was of much greater value. He seemed somewhat sensitive to Paul's chains, because they had become an object of shame in the eyes of some. But as a fellow-Christian at least, *Onesiphorus*, 'was not ashamed.'

### ▪ **Confidence-builders are stimulating.**

Proverbs 27:17 – *Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.* Wise and profitable conversation make sharp men's mental faculties powers of thinking, and those who possess much knowledge may by association have something added to them. Good men's graces are enhanced by converse with those that are good, and bad men's lusts and passions are enhanced by converse with those that are bad, as is sharpened by its like, especially by the file. People are filed, made smooth, and bright, and fit for business (who were rough, and dull, and inactive), by conversation.

### ▪ **Jesus the symbol of a genuine friend.**

It is good to have friends - all kind of friends. Jesus was known to be the sinners' friend: Matt. 11:19, *The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners...* Christ conversed familiarly with all sorts of people, not affecting any peculiar strictness or austerity. Those who were not awed by John's frowns, would be allured by Christ's smiles; from whom the apostle Paul learned to "*become all things to all men,*" (1 Cor. 9:22). There may be "*diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all*" (1Cor. 12:6), and this various "*manifestation of Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all*" (v. 7).

1Tim. 1:15, *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

Here we have the sum of the whole gospel, *“that Christ Jesus came into the world.”* Paul was a sinner of the first rank: so, he acknowledges himself to have been. He that elsewhere calls himself the *‘least of all saints’* (Eph. 3:8), here calls himself the chief of sinners. The chief of sinners has the opportunity to become the chief of saints. John 8:5ff, typifies a way in which confidence is put back into a person’s life; we can examine how Christ let go and acquit a woman charge of adultery.

Christ knew the tenderness and sincere repentance of the prisoner, and therefore said that which would comfort her. His favor to us in the remission of the sins that are past should be a prevailing argument with us to *“go and sin no more.”*

Someone wrote - *“You make more friends by becoming interested in other people than trying to interest other people in yourself.”* Another person says - *“God evidently does not intend us all to be rich or powerful or great, but He does intend us all to be friends.”*

The essence of a perfect friendship is that each friend reveals himself utterly to the other, flings aside his reserves, peel off the phony mask, the counterfeit, the imitation and artificial, and shows himself for what he truly is. True friendship is like sound health; it gives you confidence, the value of it is seldom known until it is lost. Bottom line, if you want to be confident, surrounds yourself with people who bring out the best in you.

### **C. Cease Comparing Yourself with Others.**

Last and by no means the least, stop comparing yourself with others. Human measurements are faulty. 2 Cor. 10:12, *For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*

These false Christians of whom Paul wrote, imagined they were superior to others because they failed to apply the proper gauge when taking their measurements, and so were like the insane inmates of an asylum, assuming to diagnose the mental state of each other. They were careful not to compare themselves with the high standards of the true apostles, for had they done this their shortcomings would have been glaringly manifest. Furthermore, they were living in a fool’s paradise and were pluming their feathers like proud peacocks. Little wonder that he would not dream of joining their camp.

## **Summary**

Brothers and sisters, we must not compare ourselves with each other. We must not examine for similarities or differences. We were not called to the kingdom to contrast or analyze. Comparisons only leave you feeling like the two cows reading the ad on the side of a passing milk truck: *‘Pasteurized, sterilized and gold top.’* One looked at the other and said, *‘Makes you feel rather inadequate, doesn’t it?’* If you’re child of God, you’re more than

equal to the task. God has fully equipped you for your assignment. Discover your gift, develop it, then go out and use it for His glory.

*“Do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward”*

It carries a present compensation in it, in holy peace and joy, and it shall have a great recompense of reward when we get to heaven. The apostles always exhibit the second coming of Christ as an impending event, for which the believer is to yearn and to make ready. Death is only a parenthesis. Our duty is not so much to prepare to die, as to cherish *“the blessed hope.”* From the watch-tower of prayer let us look out for the signs of his appearing and thus, we shall forget our trials, and maintain our steadfastness.

“Beyond the smiling and the weeping,  
Beyond the waking and the sleeping,  
Beyond the sowing and the reaping,  
Love, rest, and home!  
Sweet hope!  
Lord, tarry not, but come!”

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## Assignment

1. Look over Ephesians 6:10-20 to discover the components that make up the Christian soldiers' armor. What do they tell us about spiritual conflict?
2. What did you learn about Paul's *Thorn in the Flesh* and how can we experience Christ's power in our own situations - 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10?
3. Describe an occasion when your personal confidence influenced those around you who were in despair?

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4. In Paul's words - *'He often refreshed me,'* speaking about *Onesiphorus*. In what way was this done?



*Chief Editor*

Dr. Everton I. Anderson



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**M.H.I.C.D.C. MEDIA**

P.O. Box 7755, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983 U.S.A.

manorhministries@gmail.com

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