

FIRST LIGHT HERALD

SHARING THE TREE OF LIFE WITH YOU

Effective Confidence



Every single day we have opportunities to be either confident about our lives or to be terrified and doubtful.

Depending on past successes or failures, we fall into either the confident side or the terrified, but what if we could be consistently confident and it had NOTHING to do with our own abilities or short comings? How is that possible?

Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Both of these passages speak of putting our confidence in someone else. It may seem irresponsible to put our faith in another person in these times when

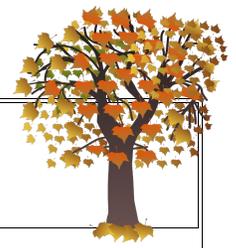
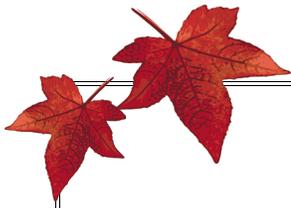
people are failing each other consistently, but this person is special. He is literally the word of God or promise of God manifested in flesh.

When we read through the pages of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we see God's spoken word manifested in human form. To think that God confidently spoke and spoke until His promise manifested is awesome. God began speaking thus creating and it was written down. God handed the dominion over the works of His hands to His first son Adam having full faith in one thing; that His word would do the following.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

God never makes mistakes. He never has a plan B. He believes when He speaks that His word is at work and MUST manifest what He is desiring. We don't have that same confidence, but we could and should have.

One day the Lord was walking with his disciples. He saw a fig tree in the distance and hoping to find fruit on it approached it. I understand that there are thousands of



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symbolic lessons in the story of the cursing of the fig tree, but the Lord literally looked at the fig tree hoping to find food on it. Alas, it was empty. He cursed it (for manifold reasons) and then walked away. To the naked human eye the tree looked no different than it had before he cursed it, but something was going on at another level that only God could see! That tree was dying from the roots up. How many of us would like fruitless things in our lives to die at the roots so they couldn't come back and harm us later? How many of us have regrets and disappointments that we would like to curse at a subatomic level? I know I have a few that creep into my mind at the most inconvenient times.

It's so important for us to realize a few basic divine principals that God set down.

1. God gave dominion to man
2. God made us in his image and likeness
3. God gave man the ability to speak for a reason (His will)
4. God expects us to speak like Him and according to His plan

God has a supreme plan, it's called His will. He has a plan for light to reign supreme over darkness. He has a plan to separate light from darkness once and for all. His plan is working at a subatomic level and it will manifest exactly as He

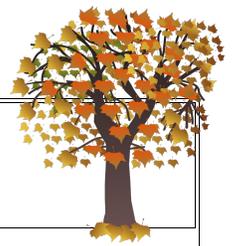
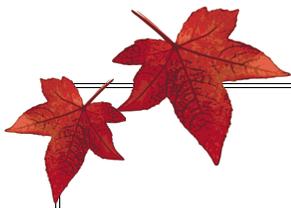
wills. To go up against His plan is absolutely futile and ultimately deadly. To ignore His plan is just as harmful. It's time for those who believe in the word of God to act upon it. It's time to do more than just live our own lives in a lackadaisical way. We can't continue to think we have the right to do whatever we want and God will bless it. We are not the captains of our own ships, we are bought with a price and we are servants of the Most High God as well as children of God.

1 John 5: 14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.



Stubborn rebellious children are like thorns in the sides of their parents. So are children of God who refuse to obey Him. I've seen full

grown adults throw temper tantrums. I've



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done it myself a time or two. It's ugly. I've dealt with adults who refuse to cooperate and insist on doing things their own way. They act like the fictitious Queen of Hearts who consistently insisted that, "All ways are my ways".

When we put our confidence in our own abilities or failures, we have become rebellious children and will find ourselves having anger boil up from within, but if we submit to God and His plan we will find ourselves peaceful and firmly planted on bedrock. We will begin to see results when we speak what He asks us to speak. As we release our confidence by faith in God's word (which by the way IS His will) we will find ourselves less afraid, less doubtful and more confident in ourselves. It will take a full U-turn to do this. That U-turn is called repentance. The bible records that "the goodness of God leads men to repent". God wants us to go in the right direction. God isn't going to misdirect us, ever.

There is only one way to God and that is through His son, His manifested living word. His son is our example and our confidence. He didn't do his own thing or say whatever he felt like. He said and did ONLY what God told him. That's exactly what we are supposed to do. God doesn't ask anything of us that He hasn't equipped us to do. All we have to do is

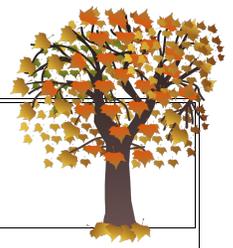
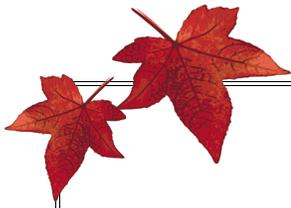
start, now. It's not too late. God's mercy is new every morning and this is the day we can start fresh! Listen intently and ask Him where to begin. He will direct your every step if you will just let Him.

Forgiveness



Forgiveness is something we all want for ourselves, but don't offer quite so quickly for others. It's something we reason out and dole out with a selfish hand. We measure the deeds of others before finally relenting, but run to God expecting instantaneous results when we fall.

I recently read with sadness the comments of many people on a social network who had posted angry unforgiving words when a fallen man was pronounced in critical condition. How quickly we forget our own faults when



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we measure someone else's deeds "unforgivable". We also tend to distance ourselves from those who hurt us. We save ourselves and also protect ourselves from those who disappoint and don't measure up to our expectations.

How different was our Lord? He was like a lamb led to the slaughter. He was silent when reviled and forgiving of the basest folks around him. He actually surrounded himself with those we would NEVER allow within an arms length. He let overly emotional friends lay on his very bosom. He wept in public when the self proclaimed righteous would condemn the sinner and rejected his free gift of self sacrifice and suffering.

We are called to partake in the sufferings of Christ, but we tend to shun the very concept of long suffering and patience, but what is it to forgive and love those who never harm us?

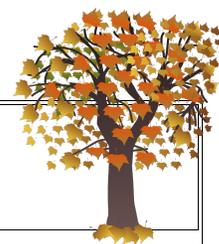
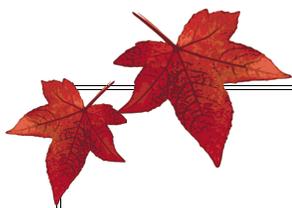
I can't pretend to be free of unforgiveness and self saving thoughts. I am as guilty as the next person when it comes to hiding from those who bother me, but I am working on becoming a goal maker and goal acheiver. My goal is to allow God to put me in a place where I quietly and joyfully trust Him when surrounded by those who would use me up. Am I there yet? Not by a very long shot. I offer these

words as a reminder that our Lord was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for OUR iniquities, the chastisement of OUR peace was upon him and by his stripes WE were healed. He became sin for us and called us to forgive one another. Forgiving means forgetting and not keeping records of suffered wrongs no matter how hard it might be. We are called to be "Christians" and that means "little Christs". Selah

Crossed Eyes?



James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.



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As kids my siblings and I would cross our eyes so we could see double and look silly. I remember my mother telling us, “Stop doing that. Your eyes will freeze that way”. As an adult I shudder at the thought of walking around with crossed eyes, but as a child I thought it might be cool. Today I wisely consider what it would be like to lose depth perception. Crossed eyes makes it hard to walk and function. I know of people who have had to have surgery on their eyes to correct “strabismus”.

James warned us that when we have double vision we become unstable and we lose the ability to receive from God! Spiritual double vision is trying to trust God and doubt Him at the same time. There are those who think doubt is natural and acceptable, but James warns us that doubt is fleshly and we have the ability to be single minded towards God and His word. If God asks us to do a thing, He also equips us, but we must believe Him.

We are daily bombarded with words of doubt and unbelief. Unbelief is deadly to the believer. God expects us to walk by faith and faith cannot exist in the presence of doubt. The two are mutually exclusive. It's like trying to put matter and antimatter in the same space; they become explosive.

We must resist doubt constantly and consistently. God uses faith to manifest His word and will. Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God for that very reason. God has put His faith in us. His faith works when it is allowed to work. We believe therefore we speak. We doubt therefore we doubt. Words spoken and faith maintained added to spoken words cause situations and circumstances to change. God looked out at the vast void of nothingness and didn't say, “Gee it's dark”, but He said, “Light be” and fully expected it to manifest.

It excites me to think that in the face of complete and utter desolation God had faith that His words would become matter. My situations NEVER get that bad! So if I consider all my words as prayers to God and speak only what God wants in a given situation, I can have confidence that faith and my “prayers” or words spoken as unto God will manifest.

Abraham was a man without an heir and he was “fully persuaded” that what God had promised He would bring to pass. He called himself the father of many nations when he was old and his wife barren. He did so diligently and even after failing miserably. He had confidence that what GOD said to him was as good as done even though it looked hopeless. He had single vision until little Isaac was born! No crossed eyes for him!