



# CONFIDENCE

*Freedom To Be Yourself*

**Teaching by Joyce Meyer**

*Joyce Meyer Ministries*  
P.O. Box 655 • Fenton, MO 63026  
636-349-0303 • 1-800-727-WORD (9673)  
[www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

# CONFIDENCE

## FREEDOM TO BE YOURSELF

### Confidence To Be An Individual

#### I. Confidence

##### A. What is confidence?

1. Confidence (defined) – A quality of assurance that leads one to undertake a thing; belief that you are **able** and **acceptable** – it causes one to be bold, open, and plain.

**II Timothy 1:7** – God has not given us a spirit of fear (timidity), but of power, love, and a sound mind.

2. Confidence is faith.
  - a. Faith in God
  - b. Faith in others
  - c. Faith in self
  - d. Faith in a product
  - e. Faith in a chair
  - f. Etc.

3. Without care and to feel safe

NOTE #1: A believer without confidence is like a jumbo jet without fuel.

NOTE #2: An unbeliever with confidence will accomplish more than a believer without confidence.

Are there things yet to be accomplished in the body of Christ?  
Does God need **every** believer fueled and ready to go?

4. Scriptural right
  - a. **Isaiah 54:17** – Security (confidence) is your heritage as a servant of the Lord.
  - b. **Isaiah 32:17** – The effect of righteousness shall be confidence.
5. **NO confidence** equals lack of revelation concerning who you are “**IN CHRIST.**”

## II. Problems Created When Confidence Has Been Stolen.

Remember who “the thief” is. (See **John 10:1-10** – religion.)

- A. Religion = Man’s idea of God’s expectations.
  1. Potential in Christ is never reached (**Joshua**).
  2. Fear rules, and the person lives in torment (**Joshua**).
  3. True joy is never known and experienced.
  4. The Holy Spirit is grieved.
  5. Doors open for endless torment: self-hatred, condemnation, fear of rejection, fear of failure, perfectionism, fear of man, people pleasing (eliminating God pleasing), control by others.
  6. People lose the right to be themselves.
- B. Confidence to be an individual – establishing individualism
  1. **I Corinthians 3:16-17** – Each of us is part of the body, but INDIVIDUAL members.

**Romans 12:4-6** – We are all INDIVIDUAL parts of one body.

2. We cripple or stifle ourselves and God’s power in us when we try to be something we are not.

Example: (Put a ring on my eye and shoes on my hands to make the point.)

3. **Individual** (defined) – Separate, distinguished by specific attributes or identifying traits (my voice), distinct or unique.
  - a. **I thought I was weird – now I know I am unique.**
  - b. **Galatians 5:1** (KJV) – *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free . . .*
4. **Warning** – New Age doctrine (ungodly and humanistic) – the interests of the individual should have preference over the whole group. (Me-ism)

C. Relax and be yourself.

1. Four basic personalities:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Motivation</u>	<u>Greatest Need</u>
Choleric	Workers	Accomplishment/ Appreciation
Phlegmatic	Watchers	Peace
Melancholy	Thinkers	Order
Sanguine	Talkers	Fun

- a. Each one has different strengths and weaknesses.
- b. Don’t try to be like someone else! You will create a mess.

2. **Joshua 1:5** – God did not tell Joshua to be like Moses. He said, “As **I** was with Moses, so **I** will be with **YOU**.”
  - a. In new or challenging situations, do not depend on yourself – depend on God.
  - b. If God is with you, nothing else matters!

NOTE #3: God is for you, and He wants you to be for you. The devil is against you, and he wants you to be against you.

### **ARE YOU FOR YOURSELF OR AGAINST YOURSELF?**

3. **Philippians 4:13** – Be self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency.
  - a. Do not try to do it in your ability but in HIS.
  - b. **John 3:27** – You can receive nothing unless it comes from heaven.

D. Get your eyes off of other people.

1. **John 21:15-22** – PETER asked, “What about this man?”
2. **Esther 4:11-17** – ESTHER was asked to do something no one else was asked to do.

“Who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.”

3. When you are going through hard times and your friends are not, **it’s easy to compare.**

E. Get your eyes off of yourself.

1. Look at God – not yourself.
  - a. **Exodus 3:10-12** – MOSES

- b. **Exodus 3:12-14** – God said, tell them “**I AM**” sent you. **“I AM” means the ever-present, all-powerful, all-knowing God is here.**
- c. I don’t need to be concerned about what **I** am if I know Who **HE** is.
- d. **Exodus 4:10-12** – Moses kept saying what he could not do.

Power in Moses’ rod – Give God what you have, and He will add the power.

Moses still talks about his inabilities (**Verse 10**).

**Verse 14** – God gets mad at Moses.

- 2. If you don’t trust yourself, you don’t trust God!
  - a. Give yourself totally to Him – He is big enough to keep you.
  - b. **John 17:10** – What I have is Yours – what You have is Mine.

NOTE #4: I put all my confidence in You, Lord. “Good, Joyce, now I can put My confidence in you.”

- c. Moses had a rod, and God filled it with power.
- d. I had a big mouth; God is using it and filling it with power.
- e. **John 17:21** – My Father and I are one.







# Confidence Without Conceit (In Yourself)

Foundation Scriptures:

**Isaiah 30:1-15** – In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.

## I. Confidence Without Conceit

- A. The dangers of and commands concerning conceit (pride).
1. We should have a **quiet** confidence but not a conceited confidence.
    - a. Conceit is worldly, carnal, devilish, and destructive.
    - b. Quiet confidence is right, necessary, and commanded by God – and nothing is accomplished for God’s glory without it.
  2. **Romans 12:16b** – *Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits.*
    - a. First, we **must know what we are NOT** before we can know Who He is in us.
    - b. **Romans 12:3** – Don’t have an exaggerated opinion of your own importance.
    - c. **Galatians 6:3** – Don’t think you are too superior to do a certain task.
    - d. **Romans 12:5** – Be mutually dependent on one another.
    - e. **James 4:1-6** – God sets Himself against the proud.

- f. **I Peter 5:5-7** – You who are younger, yield to counsel. **Cover yourself with humility.**
- g. **PRIDE IS DANGEROUS** – it was Lucifer’s sin.
- h. **Proverbs 16:18** – *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before the fall.*
- i. **I Corinthians 10:12** – Be careful when you think you stand, lest you fall.

B. Humility without self-depreciation

NOTE #1: You are not supposed to lift yourself up, but you are not supposed to put yourself down either.

- 1. **Mark 8:34** – Our cross is to forget ourselves.

NOTE #2: When we forget ourselves, we are putting ourselves totally in His care. **I Peter 4:19** says, “We **deposit** ourselves with God.”

- 2. **True humility** is not thinking depreciating thoughts about oneself.

**IT IS SIMPLY NOT THINKING OF YOURSELF AT ALL.**

- a. Read definition of “meekness.”
- b. A truly humble person does not have himself on his own mind.
- c. **Mark 8:34** – Forget, lose sight of, and ignore yourself.
- 3. I must know who I am NOT in myself before I can know WHO I AM in Christ.
  - a. **Galatians 2:20** – It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.
  - b. Become an “**everything/nothing**” – everything in Christ/nothing in yourself.

C. Put no confidence in the flesh.

1. **Philippians 3:3** – We pride ourselves in Jesus Christ and put “no confidence” on what we are in the flesh.

NOTE #3: **Pride** seeks to put confidence in the flesh!

**Pride** wants to **DO good** so it can **FEEL good**.

2. **Galatians 3:28** – No more male or female, Jew or Greek (doctor or factory worker, dentist or ditch digger, black or white); but we are all one in Christ.
  - a. **Ephesians 2:14** – Jesus broke down the dividing wall.
  - b. How? The dividing wall was pride! He broke it down by saying, “Your worth is not in being a Jew or in anything you do. Either your worth is in ME, or you don’t have any worth at all.”

D. What “flesh or fleshly things” do we put confidence in?

1. **Other people’s flesh** (important people we know)

**Our own flesh** (our works)

**Our flesh’s flesh** (our children)

- a. You can’t get your worth out of other people. Examples: your children, their accomplishments, who your family is, what your husband does, or who you know.

Example: I can’t talk about important people (in the world) who come to my meetings just to impress others.

- b. **John 2:24** – Don’t put too much confidence in people. “They are flesh.”

**Matthew 26:41** – The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

- c. Example of dangerous thinking: “I don’t know how I would ever survive without \_\_\_\_\_.”  
(someone important to you)
  
- 2. **Education** – It is fine to have it, but don’t put your “confidence” in it.
  - a. Think of all the people God uses who have nothing or very little.
  - b. **I Corinthians 1:19-21** – God’s view on education if it is depended on instead of Him
  - c. **Isaiah 61:1** – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel to the poor, open prison doors, and set the captives free.
  
- 3. **Appearance** – How you appear (not how you really are)
 

**I Peter 3:4** – The hidden man of the heart is what God looks at – not how we adorn the outer man.
  
- 4. **Things you own**
  - a. Clothes, jewelry, fur coat, home, boat, summer home, etc.
  - b. **ENJOY** what you have, **BUT NEVER** flaunt it before others to appear to be important because of it.
  
- 5. **Positions**
  - a. On the job/in the church
  - b. My position as Associate Pastor of Life Christian Center meant more to me than I thought it did.
  
- 6. **Talents and abilities**
  - a. **John 3:27** – You can receive nothing except from heaven.

- b. People without natural talent often feel worthless.

NOTE #4: God seeks AVAILABILITY more than ability.

- c. Abilities can be developed by God’s grace.
- d. People with natural talents and a lot of natural (born with) abilities often feel important.

7. **Accomplishments**

If you place your worth in what you can accomplish, you will get into “**WORKS**” big time and be miserable and frustrated.

8. **God’s tool chest**

- a. **I Corinthians 1:24-31** – God deliberately chooses what the world would reject. However . . .
- b. If you reject yourself, even God choosing you won’t ensure Him using you.

**GOD’S TOOL CHEST**

<p>○ WEAK THINGS</p>
<p>○ FOOLISH THINGS</p>
<p>○ BASE (LOW) THINGS</p>
<p>○ DESPISED THINGS</p>
<p>○ NOTHINGS</p>



**Make a list of things you have your confidence in – other than Christ.**

1.

2.

3.

4.

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11.

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17.

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19.

20.







# Do It Afraid!

## I. Do It Afraid

### A. Fear – The enemy of confidence

1. Have you ever been stopped by fear?
  - a. Run away from something because of fear?
  - b. Disobeyed God because of fear?
  - c. Started something and backed down because of fear?
2. Fear (defined/Vine's/Greek) *Phobos* – **FLIGHT**; to run away from.

It seems best to understand it as that which is caused by the intimidation of adversaries.

3. **Proper Fear** – Only one: Reverential fear and awe of God.
  - a. Causes one to obey
  - b. Causes a carefulness in our dealings with others
  - c. **Proverbs 14:26** – In the reverential fear of the Lord, there is **strong confidence**.

NOTE #1: **Do it afraid story** – Woman was stopped all of her life by fear – couldn't go out of her house. She was fearful of almost everything. She was talking to a friend about how she had been robbed by fear. Her friend looked at her and said, "**Do it afraid.**"

### B. Fear not.

1. One individual author says that **FEAR NOT** is in the Bible **365** times – "one time for each day of the year."

2. **Joshua 1:3-9** – God had already made the arrangements. Joshua’s part was “go forward and **fear not.**”
3. **Jeremiah: Chapter 1** – (selected Scripture/same situation)
4. **Philippians 1:28** – Don’t be frightened or **intimidated** by your adversaries. Be constant.
5. **Exodus 14:10-14** – The Israelites felt fear; they were ready to run. God said to Moses, tell them to **stand still** (don’t run) and see the salvation of the Lord.

NOTE #2: God never told any of them not to FEEL fear. He said, “**Fear not,**” which in essence means **DON’T RUN.**

6. **Tremble** – To shake, quake with fear, and shudder.
  - a. The Bible does not say, “Tremble not.”
  - b. Share about how my knees shook when I quit my job to prepare for ministry.
  - c. Share about when I left my position as Associate Pastor at Life Christian Center
7. Examples of areas where we might feel fear but should “**do it afraid**” or “**fear not**” as God commands.
  - a. Confrontation
  - b. Giving
  - c. Change
  - d. New responsibilities
  - e. Being in front of people
 

Share about Jacksonville Women for Jesus when I stood in front of 900 ladies and lost my voice.
  - f. Confronting my father when God said **NOW!**

C. What are we afraid of?

1. **P A I N !!!**

- a. Failure
- b. Man
- c. Losing our reputation
- d. Death
- e. Rejection
- f. Missing God

2. **Philippians 1:29** – Granted the privilege to suffer.

3. We conquer by going **THROUGH**.

Jesus conquered death by going through death.

4. Doorways of pain

We get in bondage by going through pain – we get free from bondage by facing those things with Jesus by our side, and then we must come back through the **“doorways of pain.”**

D. How to overcome fear

1. Do it afraid – it’s only pain.

- a. In Maine, when Sandy and Danny broke two luggage racks, I faced the motel manager – *“I did it afraid.”*
- b. McDonald’s Restaurant – When I only wanted water with no purchase – *“I did it afraid.”*

2. The difference between a defeated Christian and a victorious Christian is that one is **stopped** by fear and the other **does it afraid**.

3. **Hebrews 10:35-39** – Don’t fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great reward.







# Building Your Self-Image

## I. Self-Image

- A. The mental picture you carry of yourself (like a wallet photo)
  - 1. You should learn to see yourself “in Christ” (**II Corinthians 3:18**).
  - 2. Those with a healthy positive self-image are out front in the “race of life” – **because they have CONFIDENCE.**
  - 3. A believer without confidence is like a 747 jet without fuel.
  - 4. Jesus came to seek and to save “that which” was lost.
    - a. He wants to restore lost confidence.
    - b. You can be saved from your past.

## II. Uprooted And Replanted

- A. We are planted in the world’s system.
  - 1. Remember, it takes time to get planted and rooted.
  - 2. We need to be uprooted from the world’s system and transplanted “in Christ” and “the Kingdom.”

Examples:

<u>World</u>	<u>Christ</u>
1. Acceptance based on performance	1. Acceptance based on faith
2. Rejected if not pleasing	2. Never rejected if you believe
3. Loved if merited	3. Loved as free gift
4. Nothing free	4. Everything free
5. Work your way to the top.	5. Not by works but by grace
6. Compete with others to be first	6. The first will be last.
7. You're more valuable if you look right, do right, know the right people, and are talented, etc.	7. Your value is in nothing outward, but is "in Christ."

### III. Grafted In (Romans 11:16-18)

- A. If the root is Holy, so are the branches.
- B. Grafted in to receive, not to give
- C. Eliminates **BOASTING**
- D. **"Adoption"** – Same theory
  - 1. **Psalm 27:10** – Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will adopt me.
  - 2. **Ephesians 1:4** – Actually picked us out
  - 3. **Galatians 4:4-7** – We are adopted – no longer slaves.  
Learn to cry, "Abba Father!"

#### IV. Religion And Religious Thinking

##### A. Religion – Man’s idea of God’s expectations

1. What does God expect?

Answer: **EVERYTHING**

2. What do I have to give?

Answer: **NOTHING**

3. God has created everything we see out of nothing.

##### B. Covenant relationship

1. Each partner puts in everything they have.

2. **John 17:10** – All things that are Mine are Yours, all things that are Yours are Mine.

3. I gave sin, guilt, weakness, failure, negative mind, broken heart, wounds, bruises, lousy past, and a big mouth.

##### C. We try so hard to **earn!** We want to contribute something worthy, but it’s **FREE!**

##### D. **Isaiah 55:1** – Come buy without price – simply for the self-surrender that accepts the blessing.

1. 1988 – I realized I had nothing to give except my will and my love. **(Great Day!)**

2. I finally quit working at trying to be worthy!

V. **Getting Your Eyes Off What You Are Not And On Who HE Is**

A. Grasshopper image – Twelve spies (Numbers 13:33)

1. Ten saw giants.

2. Two saw God.

B. Dead-dog image – Mephibosheth (II Samuel 9:1-13)

He ate at the king's table even though he was crippled in both feet.

C. The key: Look at what is **right with God** – NOT at what is wrong with you.



