

Finding Confidence in Christ

Theme: Identity in Christ

Key Scripture: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* — Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

Opening Story

During my years in the Air Force, I watched countless young men and women step into leadership roles for the very first time. Some carried themselves with confidence from the moment they arrived, while others questioned whether they were truly capable of handling the responsibility before them.

I remember speaking with one Airman who had recently been promoted. Although he had earned the position, he constantly compared himself to others. Every mistake felt like proof that he wasn't qualified, and every challenge reinforced the fear that someone would eventually discover he didn't belong.

One day, I told him, "Confidence doesn't come from knowing you'll never fail. It comes from knowing that you can keep moving forward even when you do."

Many of us struggle with confidence for the same reason. We place our confidence in things that can change—our abilities, accomplishments, finances, appearance, or the opinions of others. When those things shift, our confidence disappears with them.

God offers us something far more secure.

True confidence is not found in ourselves; it is found in Christ.

Scripture Focus

Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Additional Scriptures:

- Hebrews 13:6
- 2 Corinthians 3:4–5
- Joshua 1:9

- Psalm 27:1
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The Lesson

The world teaches us that confidence comes from believing in ourselves.

The Bible teaches us that confidence comes from believing in God.

There is a difference.

Self-confidence depends on our own strength, knowledge, and ability. Christ-centered confidence recognizes that our strength is limited, but God's strength is unlimited.

Moses doubted his ability to speak.

Gideon questioned whether he was strong enough to lead.

Peter failed publicly.

Even the Apostle Paul admitted his weaknesses.

Yet God used each of them powerfully—not because they were extraordinary men, but because they trusted in an extraordinary God.

Too often, we wait until we feel confident before stepping into what God has called us to do.

We tell ourselves:

"I'll serve when I feel ready."

"I'll lead when I know more."

"I'll share my faith when I'm more confident."

But confidence doesn't usually come before obedience.

Confidence grows through obedience.

Joshua didn't become courageous by standing still. David didn't defeat Goliath by remaining in the crowd. Peter didn't walk on water by staying in the boat.

Their confidence grew because they trusted God enough to take the next step.

As men, we often tie our confidence to success. But God ties our confidence to His presence.

Joshua 1:9 reminds us:

"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Your confidence doesn't come from having all the answers.

It comes from knowing the One who does.

When Christ is the source of your confidence, failure doesn't destroy you, criticism doesn't define you, and fear doesn't control you.

You can move forward because your confidence rests in God's faithfulness, not your perfection.

Reflection Questions

1. What do you typically place your confidence in: your abilities or God's strength?
2. Is fear keeping you from stepping into something God has called you to do?
3. How has comparison affected your confidence?
4. What step of faith is God asking you to take today?

Today's Challenge

Identify one area of your life where insecurity or fear has held you back.

Spend time praying about it, then take one small step of obedience this week—even if you don't feel completely ready.

Remember: confidence grows when faith is put into action.

Write Philippians 4:13 somewhere you'll see it every day:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Forgive me for the times I've placed my confidence in my own abilities instead of trusting in Your strength. Help me overcome fear, insecurity, and comparison.

Teach me to walk boldly in the calling You have placed on my life, knowing that You are with me every step of the way. Strengthen my faith and remind me that my confidence is not rooted in my perfection, but in Your power and faithfulness.

Give me the courage to trust You, obey You, and move forward in confidence.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

This Week's Takeaway

True confidence is not found in believing that you can do everything on your own. It is found in knowing that, through Christ, you never have to face life's challenges alone.