

GAINING CONFIDENCE

Part 1: Influencing Factors

CONFIDENCE

- A. **We want confidence**
 - 1. For our kids
 - 2. In our institutions
 - 3. In our future
- B. **Our confidence in God is a major factor** (*Hebrews 10:35 NLT*)
 - 1. The implied truth is that we have confidence
 - 2. Directly warned not to throw it away
 - 3. Our confidence in God carries rewards

A COUPLE GAINS CONFIDENCE (*Judges 13:1-5 NKJ*)

- A. **Israel had gone away from God - again**
 - 1. This had been their pattern
 - 2. This opened the door to trouble
 - a. The spiritual environment in the country was not good
- B. **A regular couple hears good news**
 - 1. Nothing special mentioned about this couple
 - a. Except they had no children
 - 2. The Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman with a promise
 - a. She would have a son - and she needed to consecrate herself
 - 3. The boy would be a Nazirite from birth
 - a. Nazirites were separated and devoted to God
- C. **Manoah had to alter his view of God** (*Judges 13:19-24 NKJ*)
 - 1. He did not perceive it was an angel from God
 - a. Until the angel ascended in the fire
 - 2. Manoah's first response was we've seen God we're going to die
 - 3. His wife had a better perspective
 - a. The offering was received, and wonderful promises given

FACTORS INFLUENCING OUR PERSONAL CONFIDENCE IN GOD

- A. **Be on guard against drift** (*Hebrews 2:1 NASB*)
 - 1. Easy to drift away from God if we are not intentional
 - 2. Recognize the current in the world can pull us away - what we consistently see and hear
 - a. Drift implies gradual movement
 - 3. Factors that guard against drift
 - a. Personal time in the Scriptures and devotional time with God
 - b. Church and the content produced
- B. **Base your confidence on God's good news**
 - 1. We don't have to have an angel visit us (*2 Peter 1:19 NLT*)
 - 2. We have God's Word that gives us our basis for confidence
 - a. What He has said about us because of our relationship with Christ
 - b. The promises He has given us
 - 3. Our environment is becoming darker, but we have a light that gives us confidence
- C. **Have a "God is for me" mentality**
 - 1. Believing that God is neutral, uncaring, or against you drains confidence
 - 2. Believing God is for you is a major confidence factor (*Psalms 56:9 NKJV*)
 - a. It's not that we don't face challenges
 - b. It's that we believe we will come out on top
 - 3. Believing that we are for God is a confidence booster
 - a. We can be Nazirites in our heart

Hebrews 10:35 NLT

35 So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!

Judges 13:1-5 NKJV

1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. 5 For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

Judges 13:19-24 NKJV

19 So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the Lord. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on— 20 it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. 21 When the Angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the Lord.

22 And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"

23 But his wife said to him, "If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time."

24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

Hebrews 2:1 NASB

2 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

2 Peter 1:19 NLT

19 Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.

Psalms 56:9 NKJV

9 When I cry out to You,
Then my enemies will turn back;
This I know, because God is for me.