



Confidence in the Spirit

1. Confidence for today

2. Confidence for eternity

More series Confidence in the Spirit

What is the loudest voice in our heart right now?

Read

- **Romans 8:14-17, Ephesians 1.11-14**

Intro

We all have various degrees of confidence in who we are in our identity as Christians. Some of us may have major questions that give rise to significant doubt in whether God genuinely loves us and has completely forgiven us. We may have fears about what happens to us when it is time to leave this earth and face God.

We may waver in our confidence in who we are in Jesus Christ. But we need not waver and have full confidence – so how do we get that confidence? This is ultimately a question about how does God see us – who am I to God? The Holy Spirit will bring us great consolation and confidence in the answer to this question.

There is a battle for our mind – so many competing voices – the world says that we have the answer for confidence inside ourselves that we just need to discover this through self-actualization. The world is advertising and broad casting such divisive material that we can end up feeling completely naff. There seems to be a voice saying that we are not good enough. These voices are lying voices because the bible says that we are children of God. What is the loudest voice in our heart right now? Doubt – self reliance or the Holy Spirit saying you are the child of God?

Now perhaps is a good time to dig-in, retune and realign our lives to what the Holy Spirit says about how God actually sees us.

1. Confidence for today

We have a spirit of sonship

¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. ¹⁶And by him we cry, "Abba, ¹⁷Father."

Our scripture speaks straight away about our identity. If you are a Christian, you are a son of God with the Holy Spirit living inside of us. It doesn't set any conditions, once you give your life to Jesus, He has met all of the standards, you are accepted exactly as you are – redeemed, forgiven, and born again with a new nature, a permanent adopted son of God. This shapes how we interact with God and relate to Him.



Confidence in the Spirit

1. Confidence for today

2. Confidence for eternity

We will not be jettisoned or abandoned

I read recently of a poet who had a terrible upbringing. He was born to a young student mother who could not care for him so he was put up for adoption. But when he got to his early teens he got into trouble – smoking and bunking school. Immediately his adopted parents found this out they said enough is enough and put him into care. He had been adopted and then abandoned because of his mistakes.

We can often have this fear that because we fail and get things wrong, we will be abandoned and cast out by God. But we see in our test that we can call God Abba Father using the same term of endearment that Jesus used in the garden of Gethsemane for His father.

We get to approach God in the same way that Jesus did – in intimate communion.

Do we struggle to embrace this intimacy?

We can struggle to embrace that intimacy – the self, past experiences with our own parents, eroding this. How do you see yourself? The Holy Spirit wants to recover this intimate relationship with our heavenly Father the same way parents will tell their child, who has been put down at school and told they are rubbish, that this is a lie and they are a lovely well-loved son or daughter.

Jesus chose to die for us. He demonstrated His commitment to us. Don't fall back into slavery we have a spirit of freedom and peace.

The Holy Spirit gives us confidence in God's love and acceptance of us. If you ever ask does God love me – He will answer yes, yes, yes. You may say that you know this in theory but you don't feel the good of this. You may through your own parenting find it really difficult to say Abba Father. The Holy Spirit will help you, teach you, guide you, into new freedom in this if you ask him and give Him time to help you.

2. Confidence for eternity

We are heirs of God

We are heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. We inherit all the wealth of the Father. We stand to inherit something more precious. Ephesians 1.11-14

¹¹In him we were also chosen,¹² having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.



Confidence in the Spirit

1. Confidence for today

2. Confidence for eternity

Promised inheritance is eternity with God

This promise is sealed with the Holy Spirit. In ancient times the seal was like a signature at the end of a contract. So, the image we have in our scripture is one of a contract with God, for us to have this eternal inheritance, signed by the sacred seal of the Holy Spirit.

This contract guarantees great benefits that will come, they are not here now but they are coming. It is like a house purchase – you have an exchange of contracts but you have to wait before you take possession.

Not conditional

It is not a conditional offer. When we apply to university with predicted grades, we can receive an offer of a place so long as we get these grades in our final examinations. Through Jesus sacrifice on the cross, we do not have to pass any final examination – we receive an unconditional offer.

When time is up?

What happens when our time on earth is up? We have great assurance through this unconditional contract, sealed by the holy Spirit, in the blood of the lamb, that we will spend the rest of time with Jesus.

If we struggle to believe this then ask the Holy Spirit to help us put off the old flesh and put on the new.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit as we suffer with Jesus. This is not a promise of a pain free life – suffering should not be a surprise to us. But we can never feel abandoned in our suffering if you are open to the Holy Spirit refreshing hope and peace through your identity in Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross because He wanted a relationship with you. He wanted fellowship with you. We can have full confidence in this,

You are mine and you will spend eternity with me.