

## Gain Confidence

September 28, 2016



We all go through cycles and seasons in our lives, especially in our thought patterns. One of the cycles I go through is knowing that I know that I know what my purpose from The Lord is (at least in part) and also doubting what I know is from The Lord. When I know, I just know and have all the confidence to accomplish the task at hand. When I am doubtful, I hesitate and the negative thoughts have a way in my life. I want to remind us all to gain and keep our confidence; not in ourselves but in the One who created us and is the author and finisher of our faith. We all are created for a specific purpose (the ultimate purpose being to love The Lord our God above everything). Let us remember those who had to gain confidence in their purpose. They are an example to help us maintain our ways even when our minds or other people try to cause doubt in what God has called us to do.

**Eve and Adam:** Knew what God said but allowed doubt and pride to enter which caused them to be disobedient. They were removed from the garden but God did not turn His back or heart against them.

**Cain:** Murdered his brother out of jealousy. He was made to be a fugitive and a vagabond but God had this to say: **And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold."** And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him. (Genesis 4:15)

**Noah:** Called to build an Ark possibly in the midst of ridicule and taunts from the people before there was any sign of rain.

**Joseph:** Knew what his dreams from God meant but spoke before being mature enough to know how to cultivate the dreams. There were consequences to his boasting but he maintained trust in the

Lord and became the second in command in all of Egypt as well as being able to save his entire family.

**Moses:** Caught between being a son of Egyptian culture and a son of the Hebrews who were slaves to the Egyptians. He acted out to try to save a fellow Hebrew only to become a fugitive of Egypt. Through time, he heard God's voice on his purpose to save the Israelites (Hebrews) from the tyranny of Egypt while being mocked, ridiculed, and ignored by the Egyptians and the Israelites. At times, during his leadership, he became prideful which led to disobedience to the Lord. The consequence of his disobedience was not being able to cross over into the land promised to the children of Israel but Moses was able to see it and he knew God face to face.

**Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."...10 But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, 11 in all the signs and wonders which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, 12 and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. (Deuteronomy 34:4, 10-12).**

Are you getting the picture? The Bible is full of these great and powerful forerunners. Some knew that they knew that they knew exactly what God called them to do and others doubted but marched forth anyway trusting The Lord. The more we trust the Lord, the less we trust in what we see around us in the natural. The less we trust in what we see around us, the more courage we gain to follow the Lord in every way. There will be those who will try to bring doubt into us that what we are doing is not of God. We can always pray for those but we are to listen to God above every voice (including our own). Learning to hear God's voice and be obedient to Him is a process as shown by every man and woman in the Bible who followed The Lord's commands. Gain confidence in who God made YOU to be and march forward on His command.

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