

Lucan: It is time to begin; Bro. David, will you please offer an opening prayer?

Zahakiel: Let us pray. Almighty Father in Heaven, we give you thanks for the many gifts you have provided to us in the days past...of protection, of health preserved and restored, and of continued freedom to continue to speak your Gospel to the needy. May we continue to eagerly take advantage of these blessings that we and others may benefit. Bless our fellowship tonight, and may our minds and hearts be open to the words of your servant, for we ask it, rejoicing that you have heard and given to us our desire, in Yahshua's name.

daphna dee: Amen

Elyna: amen.

Natty: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Lucan: Tonight I have a short message to share regarding confidence. This is a concept that the world has made much of, largely due to secular humanism perverting it into "self-confidence." As a general rule, we may view any concept with suspicion at best when the word "self-" is placed in front of it, as self is dead to the Christian. Ideas such as "self-esteem," "self-sufficiency," and "self-confidence" are designed to replace, in word and in deed, the person of Christ as the source of all such righteous traits and train the mind to dwell on just what the word says – "self." What we want to find out about tonight is true confidence.

The Scriptures, we find, speak often of the confidence of the saints; they do not, however, speak of their "self-confidence." Rather, we find just the opposite: no confidence is to be placed in one's self – not our abilities, our talents, our money, our works and achievements, or our experiences. All true confidence is from and in the One who provides such blessings for our benefit, and the benefit of others.

As we saw from the early example of Moses two Sabbaths ago, false humility is frequently a cover for self-confidence. Both arrogance and insecurity are the fruit of pride, manifesting the focus being on self (either its ability or inability) rather than on Yahweh. As Bro. David rightly pointed out, this has, as its roots, the religion of Lucifer – the worship of self.

The world frequently mistakes arrogance for confidence, when in reality arrogance is a counterfeit made to hide a lack of it. True confidence is in Christ, and leads to humility, as there is no need to protect or promote self. This confidence is rooted in the security of the new life, and is manifest not only in boldness, but in the spirit of Sabbath rest and a

constant attitude of repentance. As it is written, "A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident." (Proverbs 14:16)

We will be reading some of what the Scriptures say of confidence tonight, and I invite any who have a passage, insight, or inspiration to share to do so.

Before we begin, I would like to propose a few thought questions for us to reflect on, any or all of which may be answered as inspiration leads:

- 1) What do I understand "confidence" to mean?
- 2) What are some of my experiences with exercising confidence?
- 3) What or who have I been confident in? What or who am I confident in now?
- 4) Has my confidence proven true, and how have I responded to that?

To begin, then:

"If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence; If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much. If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness; And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand. This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above." (Job 31:24-28)

We see here Job describing "self-confidence" in terms of idolatry, and the heart being taken away by admiration for the creation over the creator. We may be tempted to consider money a mundane thing, more so than the sun and moon, yet finances are here listed along with the heavenly bodies as those things which would be a denial of Yahweh to place confidence in, equally "punishable by the judge."

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Yahshua Christ." (Phil. 1:6)

Here is something that we are confident in – the word of Yahweh declares it so. It is a promise to us: we ARE confident of this very thing; that Yahshua has both begun and will continue to perform His work in us until the day of Yahshua's return. Thus, we are among those that will "endure to the end." (Matt. 24:13) As it says in Hebrews: "Looking unto Yahshua the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

As Yahshua is both author and finisher of our faith, we cannot help but have confidence in the work done in us. It is His work, not our own, and therefore perfect.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in

him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." (Hebrews 10:35-39)

Another verse: "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." (1 John 2:28-29)

Adventists should, of all people, be most familiar with the reasons for an encouragement to confidence in the face of a "tarrying time." We may note that the encouragement here is to not cast away something that we already possess; it is not the encouragement of the world, which is of the sort to lift the emotions with good sounding, yet empty words. It is presupposed that the believer *has* confidence, the question – if it can be called such – is whether they will choose to maintain it or cast it away. We are those who do not cast off our confidence, and therefore believe to the saving of the soul.

"Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing [is] God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore [we are] always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, [I say], and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (2 Cor. 5:5-8)

As usual, Paul brings us a clear testimony – we are ALWAYS confident. Are you ALWAYS confident? Yahweh says it; let us acknowledge the truth of the Word in us. If we have NOT always been confident, let us repent and step into the creative power of the Word here and now.

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him." (Eph. 3:10-12)

This is the promise of Yahweh – we have not only boldness, but also access to Yahweh with confidence by the faith of Yahshua, which is ours.

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (1 John 5:14-15)

The Apostles do not give room for "ifs" and "buts." "This is the confidence that we have," is the language of truth. "We know that He hears us" is the testimony of those who know indeed.

As Yah's small and scattered people, we face what the world would consider insurmountable challenges; fallen churches, apostate governments, and an infidel world conspire to suppress the testimony of righteousness by any means possible. Our testimony in this is that of the Psalmist: "Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident." (Psalms 27:3)

We may say and have said truly as a people, "It is better to trust in Yahweh than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in Yahweh than to put confidence in princes." (Psalms 118:8, 9)

"In the fear of Yahweh is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge." "For Yahweh shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken." (Proverbs 14:26, 3:26)

Just as His keeping our feet from being taken causes us to be known as "Yah our righteousness," (Jer. 33:16) the lesson I would have us take from the Scriptures this evening is summarized in this passage – "Yah our confidence."

Are there any questions or comments on the study tonight?

Zahakiel: c

Lucan: Go ahead

Adriel: Amen. C.

Zahakiel: I believe this study is well-timed. I believe there are some who will read these words that are still burdened by self-doubt to a large degree... perhaps due to a "ghost of self," as I talked about some weeks ago. The Christian must learn what it means that self is dead and that thoughts, such as Moses accepted, of not being good enough, or smart enough, or eloquent enough, to be a good Bible messenger, are not thoughts or words of truth. A number of verses come to mind when reading this study, such as the one that tells us not to lean on our own understanding, and also the other that it is not in man (that is, not in his power) to properly direct his own steps. That is Jeremiah 10:23. But this is a good thing. The reason why is, as tonight's study points out, "self," that would have led that man astray, is now dead; therefore, all that is left to lead is Yah's Spirit, and we may therefore have confidence that we are walking the right way.

I am also reminded that some time ago, we had a study about "true humility." We discussed the idea that to be truly humble does not mean, as the world understands it, to deny the good gifts that we have. Rather, we acknowledge those good things that there are about ourselves, without any shame or boasting, which would be the ditches on the sides of the road. But the humility comes in the recognition that even though there are talents and skills among us, none of us made ourselves. None of us created those talents and skills, and even if we have cultivated them through our efforts, it is Yah who placed within us both the ability to be developed, and the opportunities to develop it. End

Lucan: Go ahead, Jody

Adriel: Amen.

Adriel: Sorry wrote and then erased... In answering Q #1 above on meaning of confidence, it seems to be used with faith and belief. To me confidence is belief that Yah will do what He says He will do and I can trust Him to do that, and give me the ability to do what He asks me to do. End

Lucan: Thanks for sharing. I noticed there were a number of words used in Scripture that were translated "confidence" when preparing the notes for this study. The ones I recall ranged in definition from "persuasiveness / persuaded," to "trust and assurance," to "a real thing; actual substance on which something is built..."

Elyna: C

Lucan: I came away with a similar understanding; "confidence" seems to be something like, the outworking of faith, or the combination of works with faith in such a way that is apparent. One image that came to mind was that of a ladder. When climbing a tall ladder, one must have confidence that it will support them, or they would not climb it. I am reminded of the ladder at the Church when repainting the signs. I did NOT feel particularly confident in that ladder, and I recall some shaking of the knees...

Adriel: 😊

Lucan: But, Yah gave me confidence that He would not allow me to fall in pursuit of His purpose. And, the confidence was rewarded. 😊 I suppose that was questions 1 and 2 there. Go ahead, Guerline

Elyna: Danielle: Amen. She likes the short and sweet study. She needs that, to put her confidence in Yah. End.

Adriel: Amen 😊

Lucan: "Needs" is a word we "need" to be careful with in spiritual things... 😊

Elyna: 😊 Q

Lucan: Go ahead

Elyna: I am not seeing the ditch with the word "needs", can you refresh my mind please? End.

Lucan: The Scripture tells us that "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Yahshua" (Phil. 4:19).

The danger in statements such as, "I need to put confidence in Yah" is that it subtly places it in the future. It is a choice, a decision. As with all gifts from Yahweh, it is by His word, and immediate. Do not "need" to put confidence in Yah... DO put your confidence in Yah, and go forward in that confidence. Accept it and move on 😊 then, you no longer "need" to do the thing - you have done it. That is reflected in the testimony.

Adriel: Amen

Elyna: So, what words would fit best, because she "needs" to have or accept the New Birth.

Lucan: I understood that comment to be from Danielle. Was that incorrect?

Elyna: Her comment was that the study was good and simple and I said (I did not put that in "") that part that she "needs". End

Lucan: Ah, I see. 😊 Well, this can be a helpful refresher then. I find that the misuse of "I need" to delay claiming victory is a common issue.

Elyna: Ok, I see it, thanks 😊

Lucan: Hopefully there will be some value from the misunderstanding. 😊 Any other comments? If not, I'll ask Pastor to close with prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven, may "Yah our confidence" be our battle cry throughout the remainder of this great controversy between Christ and Satan. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Lucan: Amen

3-17-2017 Yah Our Confidence

Natty: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Elyna: Amen.

Adriel: Amen