

Walking in supernatural confidence

Opening text: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:1-8

The title of this message today comes from

v. **6^a** - *So we are always confident...*

v. **8^a** - *We are confident, yes...*

NLT: *“Yes, we are fully confident”*

I love the way the Holy Spirit inspired and used the Apostle Paul. Paul was someone who walked in supernatural confidence. There was a very real and powerful confidence in all of his words. He experienced ‘groanings’, afflictions, persecutions, imprisonments, life-threatening situations but remained always filled with faith, ‘*always confident*’ (v.6). His writings never express fear or uncertainty.

How powerful! May we all know what it is like to walk in that kind of confidence.

From the text today, we see clearly the source of Paul’s confidence:

1. He was always looking up

He looked to heaven, he mentioned heaven all the time. To him, heaven was not just a destination but a motivation.

If earth is all you think there is, then there is little reason for confidence and plenty of reason for fear. But thank God for heaven – for the glory of heaven, for the power of heaven; thank God that according to Hebrews 6:5 we can even experience “the powers of the world to come”.

2. He always kept an eternal perspective of things

4:18 - *while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

5:1 *a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

We need to keep eternity always within our sights. Eternity is real.

3. He knew what God had prepared

5:4-5 – ... *“That mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who **prepared** us for this thing is God”*

Life in the Greek is the word *zoe* – which speaks of a special kind of life, eternal life or abundant life (like in John 10:10). Paul knew that God prepared a type of life that was abundant and eternal.

1 Corinthians 2:9 - *But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has **prepared** for those who love Him."*

God is always a step ahead of anything the enemy sends against us. He has always prepared in advance blessings, solutions, miracles and the greatest miracle of all: eternity.

4. He knew the Holy Spirit

I believe that one of the reasons why Paul could walk in such level of confidence and faith was because of his revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 5: *Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident...*

Because of the Holy Spirit in him, Paul was always confident.

We can believe everything God said because He has given us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee - the word used in Greek for 'guarantee' is the same word in the Greek culture for an **engagement ring** (*arrabon*). It also means 'a pledge' or a 'deposit'.

Paul was *always confident, never in fear, walking by faith and not by sight* - because he understood that God, wanting to reassure us of the reality of all His promises (both temporal and eternal) gave us His very Holy Spirit to live in us and to be with us.

The presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is God's down-payment, it His engagement ring, His pledge regarding everything He has prepared for us, now and in eternity.

We need to increase in that revelation of the Holy Spirit. Many believers are a bit like the ones Paul found in Ephesus who didn't even know that there was a Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2).

To those same Ephesian believers, he wrote:

Ephesians 1:13-14 - *¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is **the guarantee** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

There's that word again: *guarantee*. Paul expands a bit more on that revelation of the Holy Spirit saying that He came also as a *seal*.

We are guaranteed, filled and sealed with the Holy Spirit!

1. A seal speaks of a finished transaction

Even today, when certain important legal documents are processed, they are stamped with an official seal to signify the completion of the transaction.

2. A seal implies ownership

God has put His seal on us because he has purchased us to His own (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

3. A seal means security and protection

The Roman seal in the tomb of Jesus carried this meaning (Matthew 27:62-66). The believer is safe and protected because He is part of a finished transaction.

John 14:16-17 - ¹⁶ *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another [Helper, that He may abide with you forever—* ¹⁷ *the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

He came to live is us forever. He won't leave.

4. A seal is a mark of authenticity

Just as a signature or a letter attests to the authenticity of the document, so the presence of the Holy Spirit guarantees that the believer is genuine.

Romans 8:9b - *Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

1 John 2:19-20 ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

Romans 8:16 - *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*

Conclusion:

In spite of afflictions, persecutions, imprisonments, the awareness of the limitations of this life, Paul said, "*we are always confident*". He didn't say, we are constantly fearful and apprehensive but always confident – always bold, always sure, always guaranteed. How is possible to maintain the faith and stay confident?

- 1. Look up**
- 2. Keep an eternal perspective of things**
- 3. Know what God has prepared for you**
- 4. You don't need to go at it alone: God has sent the Holy Spirit to abide with you forever. You are guaranteed, filled and sealed!**