

LESSON FIVE

THE CONFIDENCE PRINCIPLE

The Confidence Principle

Part 1 (of 2 parts)

University Objectives... (Reviewed)

_____ the Word!

_____ the Word!

_____ the Word!

Semper Vivus: _____

“This _____ is _____!”

“University” Defined:

“An institution of _____ at the highest _____.”

Principle Five (of Twelve)

The _____ Principle

I can find ultimate purpose in life only by learning the essentials of quiet confidence in God’s plan for my life. I must accept His will as my will, flowing in His plan as a cloud with the wind. I must claim in confidence each heavenly promise as my title deed to property I have never seen. I hereby resolve to choose this course of action daily, and in God’s power I consider it done.

Primary Passage...

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3 (NIV)

Foundational Premise...

“Premise” Defined:

“A proposition upon which an _____ is based or from which a _____ is drawn.”

Premise...

A believer's quality of self-acceptance and confidence to meet the _____ of _____ is in direct _____ to that believer's confidence and _____ in God.

“Confidence” Defined:

- A. Trust or _____ in a _____ or thing.
- B. A feeling of _____, especially of self-assurance.
- C. The state or _____ of being _____.

Scripture:

Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Hebrews 11:1 (AMPC)

A Fivefold View of Faith...

Scripture:

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:2-5 (NIV)

1. View One: The _____

“Assurance” defined:

“The state of being _____; freedom from _____.”

Scripture:

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

Acts 17:30-31 (NKJV)

2. View Two: The _____

“Confirmation” defined:

“The act of establishing _____; to substantiate the _____ of an event, happening or _____.”

Scripture:

For He [Jesus] received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...

2 Peter 1:17-19 (NKJV)

3. View Three: The _____

"Title Deed" defined:

"The reality of _____; the instrument that constitutes _____ of ownership."

Scripture:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV)

4. View Four: The _____

"Proof" defined:

"The evidence establishing _____."

Scripture:

No one wants to deal with these facts. But anyone who examines this evidence will come to stake his life on this: that God himself is the truth.

John 3:33 (MSG)

5. View Five: The _____

“Conviction” defined:

“The state of being _____.”

Scripture:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

Thieves of Faith

Scripture:

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:9-10 (NIV)

My problems go from bad to worse. Oh, save me from them all! Feel my pain and see my trouble. Forgive all my sins. See how many enemies I have and how viciously they hate me! Protect me! Rescue my life from them! Do not let me be disgraced, for in you I take refuge.

Psalms 25:17-20 (NLT)

1. Thief One: _____

The Enemy of _____

The Cause: Excessive _____ thinking.

Scripture:

A glad heart makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 15:13 (NLT)

I live in terror now. My honor has blown away in the wind, and my prosperity has vanished like a cloud. And now my life seeps away. Depression haunts my days.

Job 30:15-16 (NLT)

Come quickly, LORD, and answer me, for my depression deepens. Don't turn away from me, or I will die.

Psalms 143:7 (NLT)

2. Thief Two: _____

The Enemy of _____

The Cause: Refusing to _____ .

Scripture:

Don't secretly hate your neighbor. If you have something against him, get it out into the open; otherwise you are an accomplice in his guilt. Don't seek revenge or carry a grudge against any of your people. Love your neighbor as yourself. I am God.

Leviticus 19:17-18 (MSG)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Ephesians 4:30-31 (NIV)

3. Thief Three: _____

The Enemy of _____

The Cause: Attention turned _____.

Scripture:

First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall. It's better to live humbly among the poor than to live it up among the rich and famous.

Proverbs 16:18-19 (MSG)

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits.

Romans 12:16 (AMPC)

Additional Notes:

Talk Back Time:

(Share what you've learned with your small group.)

In what ways do you believe our faith is like a title deed to property we have never seen? How does an attitude of pride and arrogance rob us of our faith?

Pray Back Time:

(Pray what you've learned in your small group.)

Ask God to give you faith and self-confidence for a specific task or issue you (or someone you know) is facing. Declare specifically in prayer something you are claiming as a “title deed” to an answer you have yet to see.

The Confidence Principle

Part 2 (of 2 parts)

Thieves of Faith (Continued)

4. Thief Four: _____

The Enemy of _____

The Cause: Misdirecting our _____.

Scripture:

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the LORD will be at your side and will keep your foot from being snared.

Proverbs 3:25-26 (NIV)

5. Thief Five: _____

The Enemy of _____

The Cause: Believing _____ lie.

Scripture:

My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning.

Psalm 38:4-6 (NIV)

When troubles ganged up on me, a mob of sins past counting, I was so swamped by guilt I couldn't see my way clear. More guilt in my heart than hair on my head, so heavy the guilt that my heart gave out.

Psalm 40:12 (MSG)

6. Thief Six: _____

The Enemy of _____

The Cause: Persistent _____ confessions.

Scripture:

A man has joy by the answer of his mouth...

Proverbs 15:23a (NIV)

The LORD gave me this message: "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations." "O Sovereign Lord," I said, "I can't speak for you! I'm too young!" The Lord replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you."

Jeremiah 1:4-7 (NLT)

Seeds of Faith

Sowing and Reaping a Harvest of Confidence in Christ

Scripture:

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unending love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.

Hosea 10:12 (NIV)

1. Overcoming _____

Plant seeds of _____!

Scripture:

To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.

Isaiah 61:3 (NLT)

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair.

2 Corinthians 4:8 (NLT)

A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

Timeless Insights

From Science Digest: “Studies show that laughter—the kind we associate with good humor—can be an indication of mental and physical well-being...”

“...Scientists studying the effects of laughter on people have reported a measurable effect, not just on lungs, but on other important organs.”

More on Laughter...

“Laughter reduces health-sapping tensions and relaxes the tissues as well as exercises the most vital organs.”

“Laughter is good for both body and mind. It eliminates nervous tensions which upset body functions.”

The Power of a Good Laugh! Six Benefits of Laughter

1. It benefits the _____.
2. It clears the respiratory _____.
3. It provides a healthful emotional _____.
4. It combats _____.
5. It provides an opportunity to discharge unnecessary _____.
6. It helps combat shyness, _____ and _____.

A Final Word on Laughter...

“The ability to laugh is a measure of man’s adjustment to his environment, whereas the inability to respond positively to situations that would make normal people laugh indicates trouble.”

“It has been documented that laughter, along with a well-rounded sense of humor, is one of the surest signs of intelligence.”

—Dr. Jacob Levine
Clinical Professor of Psychology

2. Overcoming _____

Plant seeds of _____!

Scripture:

Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Luke 6:37-38 (NKJV)

In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can’t get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God’s part.

Matthew 6:14-15 (MSG)

3. Overcoming _____

Plant seeds of _____!

Scripture:

True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.

Proverbs 22:4 (NLT)

...All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Peter 5:5b (NIV)

4. Overcoming _____

Plant seeds of _____!

Scripture:

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

“Courage! Take heart! GOD is here, right here, on his way to put things right and redress all wrongs. He’s on his way! He’ll save you!”

Isaiah 35:4 (MSG)

5. Overcoming _____

Plant seeds of _____!

Scripture:

Then I let it all out; I said, “I’ll make a clean breast of my failures to God.” Suddenly the pressure was gone—my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared.

Psalms 32:5 (MSG)

It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power.

But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (MSG)

In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world.

John 16:33 (MSG)

6. Overcoming _____

Plant seeds of _____!

Scripture:

May God our Father himself and our Master Jesus clear the road to you! And may the Master pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you, just as it does from us to you. May you be infused with strength and purity, filled with confidence in the presence of God our Father when our Master Jesus arrives with all his followers.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (MSG)

May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you...

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (MSG)

Ready for Anything...

Scripture:

I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

Philippians 4:13 (AMPC)

Principle Five Reviewed

I can find ultimate purpose in life only by learning the essentials of quiet confidence in God's plan for my life. I must accept His will as my will, flowing in His plan as a cloud with the wind. I must claim in confidence each heavenly promise as my title deed to property I have never seen. I hereby resolve to choose this course of action daily, and in God's power I consider it done.

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Primary Passage...

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Hebrews 11:1-3 (NIV)

Additional Notes:

Passages for Further Study

(See following page for an example.)

Look up these passages in your Bible, underline key phrases or put a box around them. Put a number “5” in the margin of your Bible by that passage and circle it. Then, go back to your primary passage (Hebrews 11:1-3) and in the margin write these verses beside it or at the bottom of the page. In this way you will begin to cross-reference your Bible.

- Hebrews 11:1-3
- 2 Chronicles 20:10-21
- Isaiah 7:8-10
- Matthew 6:29-31
- Matthew 8:9-11
- Matthew 9:21-23
- Mark 11:21-23
- Luke 7:8-10
- Luke 8:24-26
- Luke 12:27-29
- Luke 17:5-7
- Luke 18:41-43
- Acts 3:15-17
- Acts 14:8-10
- Acts 16:4-6
- Romans 1:4-6
- Romans 1:16-18
- Romans 3:27-29
- Romans 4:15-20
- Romans 5:1-3
- Romans 10:16-18
- 1 Corinthians 2:4-6
- 1 Corinthians 16:12-14
- Galatians 2:15-17
- Galatians 2:19-21
- Ephesians 2:7-9
- Ephesians 3:11-18
- Ephesians 4:12-14
- Colossians 1:3-6
- 1 Timothy 6:11-13
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- Hebrews 10:21-23
- Hebrews 11:38-40
- Hebrews 12:1-3
- James 1:2-4
- James 2:21-25
- James 5:14-16
- Psalms 71:4-6
- Isaiah 32:16-18
- Jeremiah 17:7-8
- Hebrews 3:5-7
- Hebrews 4:15-16
- Hebrews 13:5-7
- 1 John 3:20-22
- 1 John 5:13-15

Faith Directed People's Lives

¹Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see. ²God accepted our ancestors because of their faith.

³Faith convinces us that God created the world through his word. This means what can be seen was made by something that could not be seen.

⁴Faith led Abel to offer God a better sacrifice than Cain's sacrifice. Through his faith Abel received God's approval, since God accepted his sacrifices. Through his faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

⁵Faith enabled Enoch to be taken instead of dying. No one could find him, because God had taken him. Scripture states that before Enoch was taken, God was pleased with him. ⁶No one can please God without faith. Whoever goes to God must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

⁷Faith led Noah to listen when God warned him about the things in the future that he could not see. He obeyed God and built a ship to save his family. Through faith Noah condemned the world and received God's approval that comes through faith.

⁸Faith led Abraham to obey when God called him to go to a place that he would receive as an inheritance. Abraham left his own country without knowing where he was going.

⁹Faith led Abraham to live as a foreigner in the country that God had promised him. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who received the same promise from God. ¹⁰Abraham was waiting for the city that God had designed and built, the city with permanent foundations.

¹¹Faith enabled Abraham to become a father, even though he was old and Sarah had never been able to have children. Abraham trusted that God would keep his promise. ¹²Abraham was as good as dead. Yet, from this man came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the grains of sand on the seashore.

¹³All these people died having faith. They didn't receive the things that God had promised them, but they saw these things coming in the distant future and rejoiced. They acknowledged that they were living as strangers with no permanent home on earth. ¹⁴Those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for their own country. ¹⁵If they had been thinking about the country that they had left, they could have found a way to go back. ¹⁶Instead, these men were longing for a better country—a heavenly country. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God. He has prepared a city for them.

¹⁷When God tested Abraham, faith led him to offer his son Isaac. Abraham, the one who received the promises from God, was willing to offer his only son as a sacrifice. ¹⁸God had said to him, "Through Isaac your descendants will carry on your name." ¹⁹Abraham believed that God could bring Isaac back from the dead. Abraham did receive Isaac back from the dead in a figurative sense.

²⁰Faith led Isaac to bless Jacob and Esau.

²¹While Jacob was dying, faith led him to bless each of Joseph's sons. He leaned on the top of his staff and worshiped God.

²²While Joseph was dying, faith led him to speak about the Israelites leaving Egypt and give them instructions about burying his bones.

²³Faith led Moses' parents to hide him for three months after he was born. They did this because they saw that Moses was a beautiful baby and they were not afraid to disobey the king's order.

(5)
Primary Passage

2 Chron. 20:
10-21

Isaiah 7:8-10

Math. 6:29-31

Math 8:9-11

Math. 9:21-23

Mark 11:21-23

Luke 7:8-10

Luke 8:24-26

Luke 12:27-29

Luke 17:5-7

Luke 18:41-43

Acts 3:15-17

Acts 14:8-10

Acts 16:9-11

Rom. 1:4-6

Rom. 1:16-18

Rom 3:27-29

Rom 4:15-20

Rom. 5:1-3

Rom. 10:16-18

1 Corin. 2:4-6

1 Corin 16:12-14

Gal. 2:15-17

Gal. 2:19-21

Talk Back Time:

(Share what you've learned with your small group.)

Why do you think laughter (or a “merry heart”) can affect our physical bodies like a medicine? In what ways do you see unforgiveness as being an especially great enemy to our faith and confidence in Christ?

Pray Back Time:

(Pray what you've learned in your small group.)

As you look over the list of “seeds of faith” plant one or more of those seeds through a specific prayer for an issue, need or even a person. The list includes seeds of joy (for depression), forgiveness (for hatred), humility (for pride), courage (for fear), assurance (for guilt), and confidence (for inferiority).
