



Quiet Time #5 Our Confidence

Scriptures: I John 5:13-15; II Corinthians 2:14-3:6; Philippians 3:2-9

Summary & Lessons:

As disciples, we have great confidence in many things. We have confidence in other disciples, in God's plan for us, His love for us, and so on. We have confidence that he hears all we say and ask for and that in asking we have gained that which we asked for. Yet, we also have confidence in this world. In Christ, God always leads us in triumph and so we are made perfectly competent. We cannot say the same for the world around us. It almost never leads us to triumph, and is certainly not perfectly competent.

As humans, there is an inherent danger in finding confidence in ourselves. It is not sin to have confidence, however when we look only to ourselves it is not confidence-it is pride. There is a world of difference between the two. Only God has the ability to solve all our problems with perfect competence each and every time. When we begin to rely solely on ourselves to solve our problems, we are telling God we do not believe he is competent enough to help us.

Yet, **II Corinthians 3:5** says, "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." Imagine the competence of God! Now that gives us confidence.

Personal Application:

1. Am I confident that God has already given me what I ask for or do I take humanistic efforts to get what I want?
2. How can I, at work, school, neighborhood, and act on my confidence in God in a way that is visible to those around me?

Take it to God:

1. Pray believing that you have already received that which you have asked for.
2. Think of all your personal victories, and those of the church and thank God for them as well as the victories to come.