



TRUE CONFIDENCE

1 JOHN 3:18-24

Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter
Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching
Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.
Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (1 John 3:18-24 ESV)

The Source of True Confidence (v.19)

The Life of True Confidence (v.21-22)

What heights of love, what depths of peace. When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter. My All in All. Here in the love of Christ, I stand.
~ Keith Getty & Stuart Townend "In Christ Alone"

The Foundation of True Confidence (vv.18-20)

The Cultivation of True Confidence (v.23-24)

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John 3:18-24 & John 15:1-17. Note any shared ideas or words.
2. How does John say we can know we are "of the truth"? What role does our heart play? Why does John ultimately point us to God?
3. Would you say your heart is more confident or conflicted about God's love for you and His work in your life? Where are you looking for your assurance?
4. How might your life change if you developed a greater confidence in God's love for you and His commitment to your becoming more like Christ?
5. Read John 15:1-9. Analyze the imagery. Who are the vine, the branches and gardener? Who does what? What are two encouragements to your faith in John 15:1-17?

Spiritual Exercise: John teaches that we can calm our troubled hearts by contemplating the greatness of God and the fact that He knows all things. This week, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to an opportunity to tangibly love someone for Christ's sake. If you experience fear, uncertainty, or self-interest stifling your heart when the opportunity arises to love, remember God is greater than your heart and knows all things. Then practice love as you have received God's love.

Joy is Love exulting
and Peace is Love at rest;
Patience, Love enduring
in every trial and test.
Gentleness, Love yielding
to all that is not sin.
Goodness, Love in actions
that flow from Christ within.
Faith is Love's eyes opened
the living Christ to see;
Meekness, Love not fighting,
but bowed at Calvary.
Temperance, Love in harness
and under Christs' control,
For Christ is Love, in person—
and Love, Christ in the soul.

~ Dr. Kenneth Moynagh
(Missionary in Rwanda)