

Key passage: Hebrews 10:32-39

Illustration: story of John Howland (1692-1673) – tossed over the side of the Mayflower and ‘it pleased God that he caught hold of the topsail halyards’ which hung overboard – ran out at length but he held his hold tho’ sometimes many fathoms underwater – til he was hauled up, and brought up to the ship again. Direct descendants include US presidents: F.D. Roosevelt, G.W. Bush, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, actors/actresses Humphrey Bogart, Chevy Chase and Anthony Perkins, etc. Of his brothers, descendants Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Winston Churchill -

HELD ON - PURPOSE.

Self confidence/self esteem? Humility and correct opinion of self with meekness. Central theme of the Bible is the confidence we can have in His mercy enduring forever. Webster’s definition of confidence: ‘to have full trust or belief in the powers and reliability of a person or thing’

CONFIDENCE IN GOD: NOT MAN Psalm 118:8; Hebrews 13:5-6

WE MAY HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD; IN HIS WORD AND IN HIS LOVE

If God says it, I may say it with confidence.

CONFIDENCE IN HIS WORD:

- Lamp to my feet and light to my path Psalm 119:105; brings light
- Without unfolding vision people perish but blessed is he who keeps His Word; Prov. 29:18
- 2 Timothy 3:16 – all God breathed and useful... so the man of God is thoroughly equipped for every good work
- Proverbs 30:5 – every word of God is flawless
- See: Isaiah 55:11 – will not return to God empty

If God says it, we may say it with confidence

CONFIDENCE IN HIS LOVE:

- Central theme: His love endures forever
- Ps 136 – spoken 26 x
- Ps 63:6 – His love is better than life (not just a warm fuzzy but central)
- God is love: Please read 1 John 4:16
 - ‘and we know and rely (have confidence) on the love God has for us. God is love and whoever lives in love, lives in God and God in him.
- God **so loved** the world

I have great Confidence in His Word that God loves me, the world – to the uttermost part

**NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM CHRIST'S LOVE OR FROM THE LOVE OF GOD – ROMANS 8:35-39
(READ)**

Last two verses preached recently: Ephesians 6:23-24 Love with faith, grace/empowerment for those who love Jesus with an undying love (Consider: Revelation 2:1-5 30-40 years later. Can't lose, but can leave first love)

Jude 20-21 keep ***yourselves in the love of God... He can do immeasurably more...***

Don't throw away your confidence; it is of great worth to you; you do not know what Father has for your descendants. He loves you and this is the most profound truth that we can never afford to forget or attend to.

YouTube clip: Nic Vujcic - at times has wanted to give up, but has held on in the most extreme of natural challenges.