

QUALITY
OF
LIFE
BIBLE
STUDY



Confidence®

COMPILED BY
S.MCRAE

CONFIDENCE "Quality of Life"

LEADER: Henry Ford said, "Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right!"

LEADER: "You Are As Young As..."

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

"You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt;
As young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear;
As young as your hope, as old as your despair."
Paul H. Dunn 1924-1998, Religious leader/Author/Popular Speaker

We're going to look at staying young through Faith, Self-Confidence and Hope.

READER: "Confidence Through Christ" #1 By Kenneth Sauer (Excerpt)

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=45410&ContributorID=6536>

One of the most painful things that humans often have to live with is a lack of confidence. This lack of confidence causes us all kinds of troubles.

Early on, it makes it difficult for us to make friends. We are easily ostracized. We feel as if we don't measure up. Therefore, many of us feel forced to try and do anything to fit-in. As youngsters, we might get involved in drugs and alcohol. We might begin to become accustomed to relying on an array of addictive and very unhealthy behaviors that

follow us into adulthood--causing us not to live up to our potentials.

Many people are painfully shy. They are literally scared of other human beings. And this shyness causes many of us not to join in on the fun at picnics and parties. Some of us decide not to go to Bible study, join the choir, become part of a small group, come to youth fellowship, or Sunday School. It stops many of us from approaching the person of the opposite sex whom we are attracted too because we are just too scared... and our low self-esteem will not allow us to break the ice. Many of us are literally disabled from our lack of confidence. We may not have a good body image, therefore we don't go to the beach with the rest of the crowd...for

fear that others will see us and make fun of us. We miss out on a lot of fun and a lot of good opportunities do to our lack of confidence. What in the world are we so worried about? Why are we missing out on the abundance that life offers?

What can we do about it? What is the answer?

READER: QUOTE #1

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

"It seems to me that people have vast potential. Most people can do extraordinary things if they have the confidence or take the risks. Yet most people don't. They sit in front of the telly and treat life as if it goes on forever." - Philip Adams – Australian Right Wing Radio/TV/Film Writer

LEADER: How does our confidence or lack of confidence affect our relationship with other?

READER: QUOTE #2

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

"Confidence is contagious. So is lack of confidence." - Michael O'Brien – Artist/Author

READER: "Confidence Through Christ" #2 By Kenneth Sauer (Excerpt)

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=45410&ContributorID=6536>

God has made for us, worked us out, fitted us, fashioned our lives so that when we trust Jesus Christ as Savior, God puts His presence and power into our bodies and we become immortal and eternal beings! As believers, we participate in the divine nature. We become new creations. We become new people. God creates in us a new self! The Holy Spirit is God's deposit or guarantee or pledge that God has given us immortality. When we receive Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit enters us and we begin to gain a new

confidence that we didn't even know existed. We start to look at things from a different point of view. We begin to care for others.... the welfare of others....more than we worry about what others will think of us.

READER: QUOTE #3

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Someone has said that a friend is a bank of credit on which we can draw supplies of confidence, counsel, sympathy, help, and love. And that is true, for if you have a genuine friend, you possess riches greater than silver or gold. Which, of course, brings us to the other side of the question: Are you, and am I, the kind of friend that others can treasure?” - Esther Baldwin York - Author

READER: QUOTE #4

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Confidence contributes more to conversation than wit.” - Duc de La Rochefoucauld 1613-1680 French writer & moralist

LEADER: Does being self-confident mean you're full of yourself?

READER: QUOTE #5

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Self-confidence is either a petty pride in our own narrowness, or the realization of our duty and privilege as God's children.” - Philips Brooks 1835-1893, Episcopal minister, gave sermon at Lincoln's funeral

READER: QUOTE #6

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Calm self-confidence is as far from conceit as the desire to earn a decent living is remote from greed.” - Channing Pollock 1880-1946, American novelist/playwright/lecturer

LEADER: We're as young as our self-confidence, as old as our fear;

READER: “From Fear To Confidence” #1 By Dana Chau (Excerpt)

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=39567&ContributorID=6351>

In the September 21, 2001 San Francisco Chronicle, the headline read, “Freedom and Fear Are at War.” The truth is fear is at war with many aspects of life, not just with freedom. Fear wars against our health. Fear wars against making good decisions. Fear wars against obedience to God. Fear interferes with all of life.

Fear is not all bad. But fear that wars against our confidence in God is bad. The fear that causes you to dodge an oncoming car is not bad. The fear that causes you to live within your budget is not bad. Yet, there are fears that stress our health and kill us prematurely. The fear of disapproval by people can make us bland and even disobedient to God. When fear wars against our confidence in God, fear is destructive to living.

The current fears many in this room experience include the fear of disapproval, the fear of inadequacy, the fear of unemployment, the fear of being drafted into active military service, the fear of future terrorist attacks, the fear of biochemical warfare, the fear of certain illnesses, and the fear of death. These objects of fear are not a present reality for many of us. But for those who are experiencing these realities, your fears and responses to your fears may create more problems for you than your realities.

To reprogram our fear and our responses to the fear in order for fear to be of help rather than to be destructive in our lives, we need to plug our lives into God's power, to be loved in order to love, and to exercise self-control.

READER: “From Fear To Confidence” #2 By Dana Chau (Excerpt)

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=39567&ContributorID=6351>

The Bible offers a life-transforming and lasting solution for moving from fear to confidence. The Apostle Paul wrote to his protégé, Timothy, in 2 Timothy 1:7, “*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (or cowardice), but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (or self-control).*”

READER: Matthew 8:26a

He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?”

LEADER: “Increasing Your Confidence In Christ” By Brian Atwood

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=46840&ContributorID=1807> (Excerpt)

The Greek word for “little” used in the original manuscripts could be translated “lacking confidence”.

READER: QUOTE #7

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Confidence comes not from always being right but from not fearing to be wrong.” - Peter T. McIntyre - Artist/Author

READER: QUOTE #8

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“We gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face.” - Eleanor Roosevelt 1884-1962 First Lady/Ambassador to UN)

READER: “Confidence Through Christ” #3 By Kenneth Sauer (Excerpt)

Source ~ <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon.asp?SermonID=45410&ContributorID=6536>

The Holy Spirit stirs up the confidence and courage in us that we need to face this present life. In this world all people must face such things as pressure, trouble, sorrow, rejection, loss, disease, accidents, and death. But, as Christians, the Holy Spirit stirs up in us the courage to face it all!

READER: QUOTE #9

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“The conquering of adversity produces strength of character, forges self-confidence, engenders self-respect, and assures success in righteous endeavor.” - Richard G. Scott 1924- Religious leader/Nuclear engineer

READER: QUOTE #10

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“The Art of Success . . . Success is ninety-nine percent mental attitude. It calls for love, joy, optimism, confidence, serenity, poise, faith, courage, cheerfulness, imagination, initiative, tolerance, honesty, humility, patience, and enthusiasm. . . . Success is having the courage to meet failure without being defeated. It is refusing to let present loss interfere with your long-range goal. . . . Success is relative and individual and personal. It is your answer to the problem of making your minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years add up to a great life.” - Wilfred A. Peterson – Author “The Art of Living”

READER: QUOTE #11

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation.” - Arthur Ashe 1943-1993 American tennis champion

LEADER: What about preparation?

READER: QUOTE #12

Source ~ <http://www.worldofquotes.com/topic/Confidence/1/index.html>

“Confidence doesn’t come out of nowhere. It’s a result of something... hours and days and weeks and years of constant work and dedication.” - Roger Staubach - Hall of Fame passer for the Dallas Cowboys

READER: QUOTE #13

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“This is how I define grace: You’re on the main stage, and it looks like it has been rehearsed 100 times, everything goes so smoothly. That’s where I get my confidence and success, from knowing that I have an edge because I know I’m prepared. You aren’t scared of taking a test when you are ready for it. My first couple of years, I was just kind of swimming, trying not to drown, but now. . . .” - Alex Rodriguez 1975- Professional Major Baseball League Star

READER: QUOTE #14

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“At the core of every true talent there is an awareness of the difficulties inherent in any achievement, and the confidence that by persistence and patience something worthwhile will be realized.” - Eric Hoffer 1902-1983 American writer & philosopher

READER: QUOTE #15

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“When you engage in systematic, purposeful action, using and stretching your abilities to the maximum, you cannot help but feel positive and confident about yourself.” - Brian Tracy sales trainer

READER: QUOTE #16

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Having once decided to achieve a certain task, achieve it at all costs of tedium and distaste. The gain in self-confidence of having accomplished a tiresome labor is immense.” - Arnold Bennett 1867-1931 English novelist

READER: “It Couldn’t Be Done” (Poem) By Edgar A. Guest

Source ~ http://www.quoteland.com/topic.asp?CATEGORY_ID=31

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

LEADER: How does confidence affect our business?**READER: QUOTE #17**

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Confidence and enthusiasm are the greatest sales producers in any kind of economy.” - O.B. Smith - Author

READER: QUOTE #18

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Nothing inspires confidence in a business man sooner than punctuality, nor is there any habit which sooner saps his reputation than that of being always behind time.” - W. Mathews

READER: QUOTE #19

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Enthusiasm reflects confidence, spreads good cheers, raises morale, inspires associates, arouses loyalty, and laughs at adversity . . . it is beyond price.” - Allan Cox – 20th Century geophysicist/Author

READER: QUOTE #20

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Have more confidence in yourself than allowing your decisions to happen just by chance.” - L. Tom Perry 1922- Church leader/ VP& Treasurer Perry's Department Store chain

READER: QUOTE #21

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Have confidence in your products and the house backing them, have enthusiasm for your job, call on your trade regularly and consistently, treat your trade courteously, and you will find that your customers will not have to be sold—they will be glad to buy.” - O. B. Smith - Author

READER: QUOTE #22

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“In building a firm foundation for Success, here are a few stones to remember:

1. The wisdom of preparation.
2. The value of confidence.
3. The worth of honesty.
4. The privilege of working.
5. The discipline of struggle.
6. The magnetism of character.
7. The radiance of health.
8. The forcefulness of simplicity.
9. The winsomeness of courtesy.
10. The attractiveness of modesty.
11. The inspiration of cleanliness.
12. The satisfaction of serving.
13. The power of suggestion.
14. The buoyancy of enthusiasm.
15. The advantage of initiative.
16. The virtue of patience.
17. The rewards of co-operation.
18. The fruitfulness of perseverance.
19. The sportsmanship of losing.
20. The joy of winning.”

- Rollo C. Hester - Author

READER: QUOTE #23

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Get the confidence of the public and you will have no difficulty in getting their patronage. Inspire your whole force with the right spirit of service; encourage every sign of the true spirit. So display and advertise wares that customers shall buy with understanding. Treat them as guests when they come and when they go, whether or not they buy. Give them all that can be given fairly, on the principle that to him that giveth shall be given. Remember always that the recollection of quality remains long after the price is forgotten. Then your business will prosper by a natural process.” - H. Gordon Selfridge 1857-1947 Founder Selfridge & Co, London

LEADER: “We’re as young as our faith, as old as our doubt;

READER: QUOTE #24

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“I see that I am inwardly fashioned for faith and not for fear. Fear is not my native land; faith is. I am so made that worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life; faith is oil. I live better by faith and confidence than by fear and doubt and anxiety. In anxiety and worry my being is gasping for breath — these are not my native air. But in faith and confidence I breath freely — these are my native air.” - Eli Stanley Jones 1884-1973, American missionary/author/evangelist

READER: QUOTE #25

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Somehow I can’t believe there are many heights that can’t be scaled by a man who knows the secret of making dreams come true. This special secret can be summarized in four C’s. They are: curiosity, confidence, courage, and constancy, and the greatest of these is confidence.” - Walt Disney 1901-1966 Entrepreneur/Cartoonist

LEADER: I would suggest there are 5 C’s...The first is Christ and through him we can achieve the others.

READER: QUOTE #26

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“You are children of God. If each one of you could only have a sure knowledge of this for yourself, you would have a sweet peace in your heart and confidence to meet any challenges life may bring.” - Jayne B. Malin

READER: “Confidence In God” (Excerpt) From “Giant Steps” By Frederick William Faber
Source ~ <http://www.backtothebible.org/devotions/classics/giant.htm/309>

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward” - Hebrews 10:35

All our spiritual exercises, of whatever nature they may be, are so many means of acquiring confidence in God. They all let us deeper down into Him. They all unfold more and more of the nature of grace, and of the poverty of our own nature. They all bring experiences of Jesus in the soul; and each of these experiences is a new ground of confidence in Him. Our simple perseverance in anything good is a process of augmentation of our confidence. Outward temptations help us. They frighten us away from self-trust. They make us better acquainted with our possibilities of sin. They reveal to us in an alarming manner the vigour and the unweariedness of the spiritual powers, which are arrayed against us. They lead us to try all methods of keeping right, and we exhaust them, and find, that only confidence in God wears, endures, and succeeds. Inward trials lead to the same result, only still more swiftly and more infallibly. God’s arms are more closely folded round us in interior trials, than in the sensible sweetnesses of His consoling visitations. A much tried man is always a man of unbounded faith, and of a confidence in God which looks, to us of lower faith, superstitious in little things, and presumptuous in great ones.

READER: QUOTE #27

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Seek worthy companions. Attend church faithfully. Never fail daily to seek for help through prayer. And I promise you that the way will be easier and you shall have a composure of mind and a confident attitude toward life and the future. You shall be warned of dangers and shall be guided through the whisperings of the Holy Spirit.” - Boyd K. Packer 1924- American religious leader

READER: QUOTE #28

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Very often when I haven’t faith in my faith, I have to have faith in His faith. He makes me believe in myself and my possibilities, when I simply can’t. I have to rise to His faith in me. With faith in His faith you can do anything— anything that ought to be done. There is a passage which touches your need. “For the Eternal . . . will not let you go.” Faith is not merely your holding on to God; it is God holding on to you. He will not let you go! As Walt Whitman puts it, “Not until the sun refuses to shine, do I refuse you.” Then keep saying to your soul, “In quietness and in confidence shall be your faith.” (Isaiah 30:15).” - Eli Stanley Jones 1884-1973 missionary & author, evangelist

READER: 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (EVERYONE TURN TO)

Then Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD, My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth, For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are shattered, But the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, But those who were hungry cease to hunger. Even the barren gives birth to seven, But she who has many children languishes. The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’S, And He set the world on them. He keeps the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail. Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed.”

READER: “Confidence For Tomorrow” #1 By Jim O’connell

Source ~ <http://netministries.org/see/devotion.exe/dd00636>

When life gets a little crazy, I turn to what is constant in my life, God. In this wonderful psalm of Hannah we quickly see that God is the rock of her life, the core of her confidence. In this country we have lived a fairly predictable and comfortable life. When I look at history and in other countries this is not the case. From the news in the middle east, the continents of Africa, Europe, and Asia, it is easy to see that things are not secure, that change, war, injustice, famine, and disease eat away at any sense of security. Hannah’s song is reflective of a life of travail, and torment. What she finds is hope and help in God. To build a house you need

to have a starting point from which you level and square everything else. It becomes the base line of the future for that building. As long as your foundation is strong, and your beginning point unchanging, the house will withstand the storms of time. Hannah states that “there is none holy like the Lord...” We can build our lives in confidence for tomorrow when we start with God and make him central to all that we do.

READER: Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

READER: “Confidence For Tomorrow”#2 By Jim O’connell

Source ~ <http://netministries.org/see/devotion.exe/dd00639>

Confidence is an interesting thing. As a child I found confidence in the hands of my parents. As long as they were near, or they held my hand, I could do anything, go anywhere. As an adult Christ gives me a new kind of confidence, both through his blood, to enter into the presence of God, and through the fellowship of believers, who can encourage and stir up each other for love and good works. Coming together as the body of Christ is important to our growth and confidence for tomorrow. Without the fellowship to hold us accountable for our dreams, our visions, and our promises we might not ever achieve much. As the body of Christ we have tremendous power to cheer, lift up, and motivate one another to greater things. What we say, what we see, how we interact all bears witness to the depth of our relationship with God. Since we have passed through the curtain into the living presence of God, by the blood of Christ we have no more need of fear and no possibility of failure. Christ has made us clean, washed us pure, and given us hope. In him we find confidence for tomorrow and help for today.

READER: Mark 4:26-34

And He was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

Parable of the Mustard Seed

And He said, “How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR can NEST UNDER ITS SHADE.” With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it; and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

READER: “Confidence For Tomorrow”#3 By Jim O’connell

Source ~ <http://netministries.org/see/devotion.exe/dd00502>

The ultimate act of confidence is to take something precious and let go of it so that it may grow. The farmer in this parable takes seed, which could also be used for food, and scatters it upon the ground. Once the seed has hit the ground it is pretty much out of the control of the farmer. The amazing thing is that it grows without his having to do much except to harvest it when it has produced fruit. We can compare our life to the farmer in that we have much we could try to control. The emphasis here is that God takes even the smallest potential and gives it growth, sometimes phenomenal growth. The point is that confidence for growth rests in God and not so much in our ability. If we are willing to scatter the seed of God’s potential, looking for it in the things we do, in the people we meet, great things will grow. Let us make God our sanctuary, his work our mission, and witness to our confidence in the growth Christ makes possible in all people.

READER: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their

behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

READER: “Confidence For Tomorrow”#4 By Jim O’connell

Source ~ <http://netministries.org/see/devotion.exe/dd00501>

If we believe we will achieve. When we cultivate our confidence in Christ by recalling daily that he died for us we will grow into a deeper relationship with Christ. Belief is the key factor and it finds power in the love of Christ. God so loved us that he sent Christ to die for all. This has been the source of confidence for Christians down through the ages. Now Christ died to give us a new perspective on life. We are to regard everyone and everything from this new point of view, that is with Christ’s eyes and not human eyes. From a human point of view we usually miss the potential for new growth in people. There is a tree propagation technique where little bushy three year old trees are cut almost to the ground. A dominant nodule sends up a new shoot that sometimes grows several feet straight up the first year and continues to grow as a single stem tree for most of the second year before branching out maybe at ten feet above the ground. This new taller, creation came about as a result of the death of the old form. Similarly, when we have confidence in the power of Christ we become a new creation and can help others also find confidence in Christ. Then we all grow.

READER: QUOTE #29

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“God knows the feelings in every human heart. He can soften sorrow and lead when there seems to be no light. Prayer can give guidance and confidence. It reminds us that no one need be alone in this world. If all else fails, remember, God and one other person can be a family.” - Marvin J. Ashton 1915-1994 , American religious leader, business executive & state senator

READER: QUOTE #30

Source ~ http://www.quoteland.com/topic.asp?CATEGORY_ID=31

“Think positively and masterfully, with confidence and faith, and life becomes more secure, more fraught with action, richer in achievement and experience.” - Eddie Rickenbacker 1890-1973, Top American Ace of WWI, Successful Entrepreneur

READER: QUOTE #31

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“So great is my veneration for the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable members of society.” - John Quincy Adams 1767-1848 6th US president

LEADER: We’re as young as our hope, as old as our despair.”

READER: QUOTE #32

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” - Helen Keller 1880-1968 blind & deaf American writer & lecturer

READER: QUOTE #33

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“No man is beaten until his hope is annihilated, his confidence gone. As long as a man faces life hopefully, confidently, triumphantly he is not a failure; he is not beaten until he turns his back on life.” - Orison Swett Marden 1850-1924, Founder/Editor Success magazine

READER: Psalm 31:24

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

READER: Psalm 33:18

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

READER: QUOTE #34

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Children Learn What They Live: If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight. If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy. If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilty. If a child lives with impropriety, he learns to feel shame. If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient. If a child lives with encouragement he learns confidence. If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate. If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice. If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith. If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself. If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world. With what is your child living?” - Dorothy Law Neite – Author/Poet

READER: “Howard Hendricks”

Source ~ http://www.sermonillustrator.org/illustrator/sermon2a/howard_hendricks.htm

In “Today in the Word” it is reported that, “Dr. Howard Hendricks of Dallas Theological Seminary says he can remember only two of his childhood school teachers; his fifth and sixth grade teachers. He had a reputation for causing trouble in the classroom. His fifth grade teacher dealt with him by tying him to his seat and wrapping mucilage paper over his mouth.

“Finally, Dr. Hendricks reports, he was promoted to the sixth grade. His teacher was 6’4” tall, ‘a feminine version of Sherlock Holmes.’ As he walked into her class she said, ‘Oh, you’re Howard Hendricks. I’ve heard a lot about you.’ But then she added, ‘But I don’t believe a word of it!’

“She convinced him that she had confidence in him, and Dr. Hendricks recalls that he knocked himself out to please her.”

Every child and every adult -- including the elderly — need lots of positive affirmation and encouragement. Everyone needs someone to believe in and love him/her ... without which we can shrivel up and die inside.

LEADER: Everyone needs encouragement. Take the time to be an encourager, to build another’s confidence.

READER: QUOTE #35

Source ~ <http://www.zaadz.com/quotes/topics/confidence/>

“Youth is not entirely a time of life; it is a state of mind. Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubts; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.” - Douglas MacArthur 1880-1964 US General of the Army

READER: “Equipment” (Poem) By Edgar A. Guest (Excerpt)

Source ~ http://www.quoteland.com/topic.asp?CATEGORY_ID=31

(Recited by Dr. George Washington Carver during his commencement address at Selma University, Selma Alabama on May 27, 1942)

Courage must come from the soul within,
The man must furnish the will to win.
So figure it out for yourself, my lad.
You were born with all that the great have had,
With your equipment they all began,
Get hold of yourself and say: “I can.”

READER: 2 Corinthians 3:4-5

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

READER: Hebrews 4:16

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

LEADER: “Confidence” (Excerpt)

Source ~ <http://dailywisdom.gospelcom.net/archives/2003/02/04/index.html#000162>

Even if God did not endow you with the gift of confidence, He has confidence in you. He created you for a purpose and gave you an incredible mind and body to do important work. He has a plan for your life, and His plan is not for you to fail. Have confidence that God wants you to succeed.

LEADER: Through Him all things are possible!

COMMENTS IF TIME:

**ALLOW 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO DISMISSAL FOR
PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES:**

COPY AND DISTRIBUTE FOR TO READERS’ FOR PARTICIPATION:

READERS

“Confidence Through Christ” #1

One of the most painful things that humans often have to live with is a lack of confidence. This lack of confidence causes us all kinds of troubles.

Early on, it makes it difficult for us to make friends. We are easily ostracized. We feel as if we don't measure up. Therefore, many of us feel forced to try and do anything to fit-in. As youngsters, we might get involved in drugs and alcohol. We might begin to become accustomed to relying on an array of addictive and very unhealthy behaviors that

follow us into adulthood--causing us not to live up to our potentials.

Many people are painfully shy. They are literally scared of other human beings. And this shyness causes many of us not to join in on the fun at picnics and parties. Some of us decide not to go to Bible study, join the choir, become part of a small group, come to youth fellowship, or Sunday School. It stops many of us from approaching the person of the opposite sex whom we are attracted too because we are just too scared... and our low self-esteem will not allow us to break the ice. Many of us are literally disabled from our lack of confidence. We may not have a good body image, therefore we don't go to the beach with the rest of the crowd...for

fear that others will see us and make fun of us. We miss out on a lot of fun and a lot of good opportunities do to our lack of confidence. What in the world are we so worried about? Why are we missing out on the abundance that life offers?

What can we do about it? What is the answer?

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QUOTE #1

“It seems to me that people have vast potential. Most people can do extraordinary things if they have the confidence or take the risks. Yet most people don't. They sit in front of the telly and treat life as if it goes on forever.” - Philip Adams – Australian Right Wing Radio/TV/Film Writer

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QUOTE #2

“Confidence is contagious. So is lack of confidence.” - Michael O'Brien – Artist/Author

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“Confidence Through Christ” #2

God has made for us, worked us out, fitted us, fashioned our lives so that when we trust Jesus Christ as Savior, God puts His presence and power into our bodies and we become immortal and eternal beings! As believers, we participate in the divine nature. We become new creations. We become new people. God creates in us a new self! The Holy Spirit is God's deposit or guarantee or pledge that God has given us immortality. When we receive Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit enters us and we begin to gain a new confidence that we didn't even know existed. We start to look at things from a different point of view. We begin to care for others.... the welfare of others....more than we worry about what others will think of us.

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QUOTE #3

“Someone has said that a friend is a bank of credit on which we can draw supplies of confidence, counsel, sympathy, help, and love. And that is true, for if you have a genuine friend, you possess riches greater than silver or gold. Which, of course, brings us to the other side of the question: Are you, and am I, the kind of friend that others can treasure?” - Esther Baldwin York - Author

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QUOTE #4

“Confidence contributes more to conversation than wit.” - Duc de La Rochefoucauld 1613-1680 French writer & moralist

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QUOTE #5

“Self-confidence is either a petty pride in our own narrowness, or the realization of our duty and privilege as God’s children.” - Philips Brooks 1835-1893, Episcopal minister, gave sermon at Lincoln’s funeral



QUOTE #6

“Calm self-confidence is as far from conceit as the desire to earn a decent living is remote from greed.” - Channing Pollock 1880-1946, American novelist/playwright/lecturer



“From Fear To Confidence” #1

In the September 21, 2001 San Francisco Chronicle, the headline read, “Freedom and Fear Are at War.” The truth is fear is at war with many aspects of life, not just with freedom. Fear wars against our health. Fear wars against making good decisions. Fear wars against obedience to God. Fear interferes with all of life.

Fear is not all bad. But fear that wars against our confidence in God is bad. The fear that causes you to dodge an oncoming car is not bad. The fear that causes you to live within your budget is not bad. Yet, there are fears that stress our health and kill us prematurely. The fear of disapproval by people can make us bland and even disobedient to God. When fear wars against our confidence in God, fear is destructive to living.

The current fears many in this room experience include the fear of disapproval, the fear of inadequacy, the fear of unemployment, the fear of being drafted into active military service, the fear of future terrorist attacks, the fear of biochemical warfare, the fear of certain illnesses, and the fear of death. These objects of fear are not a present reality for many of us. But for those who are experiencing these realities, your fears and responses to your fears may create more problems for you than your realities.

To reprogram our fear and our responses to the fear in order for fear to be of help rather than to be destructive in our lives, we need to plug our lives into God’s power, to be loved in order to love, and to exercise self-control.



“From Fear To Confidence” #2

The Bible offers a life-transforming and lasting solution for moving from fear to confidence. The Apostle Paul wrote to his protégé, Timothy, in 2 Timothy 1:7, *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (or cowardice), but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (or self-control).”*



Matthew 8:26a



QUOTE #7

“Confidence comes not from always being right but from not fearing to be wrong.” - Peter T. McIntyre - Artist/Author



QUOTE #8

“We gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face.” - Eleanor Roosevelt 1884-1962 First Lady/Ambassador to UN)



“Confidence Through Christ” #3

The Holy Spirit stirs up the confidence and courage in us that we need to face this present life. In this world all people must face such things as pressure, trouble, sorrow, rejection, loss, disease, accidents, and death. But, as Christians, the Holy Spirit stirs up in us the courage to face it all!



QUOTE #9

“The conquering of adversity produces strength of character, forges self-confidence, engenders self-respect, and assures success in righteous endeavor.” - Richard G. Scott 1924- Religious leader/Nuclear engineer



QUOTE #10

“The Art of Success . . . Success is ninety-nine percent mental attitude. It calls for love, joy, optimism, confidence, serenity, poise, faith, courage, cheerfulness, imagination, initiative, tolerance, honesty, humility, patience, and enthusiasm. . . . Success is having the courage to meet failure without being defeated. It is refusing to let present loss interfere with your long-range goal. . . . Success is relative and individual and personal. It is your answer to the problem of making your minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years add up to a great life.” - Wilfred A. Peterson – Author “The Art of Living”



QUOTE #11

“One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation.” - Arthur Ashe 1943-1993 American tennis champion



QUOTE #12

“Confidence doesn’t come out of nowhere. It’s a result of something... hours and days and weeks and years of constant work and dedication.” - Roger Staubach - Hall of Fame passer for the Dallas Cowboys



QUOTE #13

“This is how I define grace: You’re on the main stage, and it looks like it has been rehearsed 100 times, everything goes so smoothly. That’s where I get my confidence and success, from knowing that I have an edge because I know I’m prepared. You aren’t scared of taking a test when you are ready for it. My first couple of years, I was just kind of swimming, trying not to drown, but now. . . .” - Alex Rodriguez 1975- Professional Major Baseball League Star



QUOTE #14

“At the core of every true talent there is an awareness of the difficulties inherent in any achievement, and the confidence that by persistence and patience something worthwhile will be realized.” - Eric Hoffer 1902-1983 American writer & philosopher



QUOTE #15

“When you engage in systematic, purposeful action, using and stretching your abilities to the maximum, you cannot help but feel positive and confident about yourself.” - Brian Tracy sales trainer



QUOTE #16

“Having once decided to achieve a certain task, achieve it at all costs of tedium and distaste. The gain in self-confidence of having accomplished a tiresome labor is immense.” - Arnold Bennett 1867-1931 English novelist



“It Couldn’t Be Done”

Somebody said that it couldn’t be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That “maybe it couldn’t,” but he would be one
Who wouldn’t say so till he’d tried.

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn’t be done, and he did it.

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QUOTE #17

“Confidence and enthusiasm are the greatest sales producers in any kind of economy.” - O.B. Smith - Author

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QUOTE #18

“Nothing inspires confidence in a business man sooner than punctuality, nor is there any habit which sooner saps his reputation than that of being always behind time.” - W. Mathews

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QUOTE #19

“Enthusiasm reflects confidence, spreads good cheers, raises morale, inspires associates, arouses loyalty, and laughs at adversity . . . it is beyond price.” - Allan Cox – 20th Century geophysicist/Author

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QUOTE #20

“Have more confidence in yourself than allowing your decisions to happen just by chance.” - L. Tom Perry 1922- Church leader/ VP& Treasurer Perry’s Department Store chain

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QUOTE #21

“Have confidence in your products and the house backing them, have enthusiasm for your job, call on your trade regularly and consistently, treat your trade courteously, and you will find that your customers will not have to be sold—they will be glad to buy.” - O. B. Smith - Author

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QUOTE #22

“In building a firm foundation for Success, here are a few stones to remember:

1. The wisdom of preparation.
2. The value of confidence.
3. The worth of honesty.
4. The privilege of working.
5. The discipline of struggle.
6. The magnetism of character.
7. The radiance of health.
8. The forcefulness of simplicity.
9. The winsomeness of courtesy.
10. The attractiveness of modesty.
11. The inspiration of cleanliness.
12. The satisfaction of serving.
13. The power of suggestion.
14. The buoyancy of enthusiasm.
15. The advantage of initiative.
16. The virtue of patience.
17. The rewards of co-operation.
18. The fruitfulness of perseverance.
19. The sportsmanship of losing.
20. The joy of winning.”

- Rollo C. Hester - Author

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QUOTE #23

“Get the confidence of the public and you will have no difficulty in getting their patronage. Inspire your whole force with the right spirit of service; encourage every sign of the true spirit. So display and advertise wares that customers shall buy with understanding. Treat them as guests when they come and when they go, whether or not they buy. Give them all that can be given fairly, on the principle that to him that giveth shall be given. Remember always that the recollection of quality remains long after the price is forgotten. Then your business will prosper by a natural process.” - H. Gordon Selfridge 1857-1947 Founder Selfridge & Co, London

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QUOTE #24

“I see that I am inwardly fashioned for faith and not for fear. Fear is not my native land; faith is. I am so made that worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life; faith is oil. I live better by faith and confidence than by fear and doubt and anxiety. In anxiety and worry my being is gasping for breath — these are not my native air. But in faith and confidence I breath freely — these are my native air.” - Eli Stanley Jones 1884-1973, American missionary/author/evangelist

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QUOTE #25

“Somehow I can’t believe there are many heights that can’t be scaled by a man who knows the secret of making dreams come true. This special secret can be summarized in four C’s. They are: curiosity, confidence, courage, and constancy, and the greatest of these is confidence.” - Walt Disney 1901-1966 Entrepreneur/Cartoonist

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QUOTE #26

“You are children of God. If each one of you could only have a sure knowledge of this for yourself, you would have a sweet peace in your heart and confidence to meet any challenges life may bring.” - Jayne B. Malin

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“Confidence In God”

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward” - Hebrews 10:35

All our spiritual exercises, of whatever nature they may be, are so many means of acquiring confidence in God. They all let us deeper down into Him. They all unfold more and more of the nature of grace, and of the poverty of our own nature. They all bring experiences of Jesus in the soul; and each of these experiences is a new ground of confidence in Him. Our simple perseverance in anything good is a process of augmentation of our confidence. Outward temptations help us. They frighten us away from self-trust. They make us better acquainted with our possibilities of sin. They reveal to us in an alarming manner the vigour and the unweariedness of the spiritual powers, which are arrayed against us. They lead us to try all methods of keeping right, and we exhaust them, and find, that only confidence in God wears, endures, and succeeds. Inward trials lead to the same result, only still more swiftly and more infallibly. God’s arms are more closely folded round us in interior trials, than in the sensible sweetnesses of His consoling visitations. A much tried man is always a man of unbounded faith, and of a confidence in God which looks, to us of lower faith, superstitious in little things, and presumptuous in great ones.

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QUOTE #27

“Seek worthy companions. Attend church faithfully. Never fail daily to seek for help through prayer. And I promise you that the way will be easier and you shall have a composure of mind and a confident attitude toward life and the future. You shall be warned of dangers and shall be guided through the whisperings of the Holy Spirit.” - Boyd K. Packer 1924- American religious leader

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QUOTE #28

“Very often when I haven’t faith in my faith, I have to have faith in His faith. He makes me believe in myself and my possibilities, when I simply can’t. I have to rise to His faith in me. With faith in His faith you can do anything— anything that ought to be done. There is a passage which touches your need. “For the Eternal . . . will not let you go.” Faith is not merely your holding on to God; it is God holding on to you. He will not let you go! As Walt Whitman puts it, “Not until the sun refuses to shine, do I refuse you.” Then keep saying to your soul, “In quietness and in confidence shall be your faith.” (Isaiah 30:15).” - Eli Stanley Jones 1884-1973 missionary & author, evangelist

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1 Samuel 2:1-10

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“Confidence For Tomorrow”

When life gets a little crazy, I turn to what is constant in my life, God. In this wonderful psalm of Hannah we quickly see that God is the rock of her life, the core of her confidence. In this country we have lived a fairly predictable and comfortable life. When I look at history and in other countries this is not the case. From the news in the middle east, the continents of Africa, Europe, and Asia, it is easy to see that things are not secure, that change, war, injustice, famine, and disease eat away at any sense of security. Hannah’s song is reflective of a life of travail, and torment. What she finds is hope and help in God. To build a house you need to have a starting point from which you level and square everything else. It becomes the base line of the future for that building. As long as your foundation is strong, and your beginning point unchanging, the house will withstand the storms of time. Hannah states that “there is none holy like the Lord...” We can build our lives in confidence for tomorrow when we start with God and make him central to all that we do.

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Hebrews 10:19-25

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“Confidence For Tomorrow”#2

Confidence is an interesting thing. As a child I found confidence in the hands of my parents. As long as they were near, or they held my hand, I could do anything, go anywhere. As an adult Christ gives me a new kind of confidence, both through his blood, to enter into the presence of God, and through the fellowship of believers, who can encourage and stir up each other for love and good works. Coming together as the body of Christ is important to our growth and confidence for tomorrow. Without the fellowship to hold us accountable for our dreams, our visions, and our promises we might not ever achieve much. As the body of Christ we have tremendous power to cheer, lift up, and motivate one another to greater things. What we say, what we see, how we interact all bears witness to the depth of our relationship with God. Since we have passed through the curtain into the living presence of God, by the blood of Christ we have no more need of fear and no possibility of failure. Christ has made us clean, washed us pure, and given us hope. In him we find confidence for tomorrow and help for today.

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Mark 4:26-34

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“Confidence For Tomorrow”#3

The ultimate act of confidence is to take something precious and let go of it so that it may grow. The farmer in this parable takes seed, which could also be used for food, and scatters it upon the ground. Once the seed has hit the ground it is pretty much out of the control of the farmer. The amazing thing is that it grows without his having to do much except to harvest it when it has produced fruit. We can compare our life to the farmer in that we have much we could try to control. The emphasis here is that God takes even the smallest potential and gives it growth, sometimes phenomenal growth. The point is that confidence for growth rests in God and not so much in our ability. If we are willing to scatter the seed of God’s potential, looking for it in the things we do, in the people we meet, great things will grow. Let us make God our sanctuary, his work our mission, and witness to our confidence in the growth Christ makes possible in all people.

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2 Corinthians 5:14-17

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“Confidence For Tomorrow”#4

If we believe we will achieve. When we cultivate our confidence in Christ by recalling daily that he died for us we will grow into a deeper relationship with Christ. Belief is the key factor and it finds power in the love of Christ. God so loved us that he sent Christ to die for all. This has been the source of confidence for Christians down through the ages. Now Christ died to give us a new perspective on life. We are to regard everyone and everything from this new point of view, that is with Christ’s eyes and not human eyes. From a human point of view we usually miss the potential for new growth in people. There is a tree propagation technique where little bushy three year old trees are cut almost to the ground. A dominant nodule sends up a new shoot that sometimes grows several feet straight up the first year and continues to grow as a single stem tree for most of the second year before branching out maybe at ten feet above the ground. This new taller, creation came about as a result of the death of the old form. Similarly, when we have confidence in the power of Christ we become a new creation and can help others also find confidence in Christ. Then we all grow.

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QUOTE #29

“God knows the feelings in every human heart. He can soften sorrow and lead when there seems to be no light. Prayer can give guidance and confidence. It reminds us that no one need be alone in this world. If all else fails, remember, God and one other person can be a family.” - Marvin J. Ashton 1915-1994 , American religious leader, business executive & state senator

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QUOTE #30

“Think positively and masterfully, with confidence and faith, and life becomes more secure, more fraught with action, richer in achievement and experience.” - Eddie Rickenbacker 1890-1973, Top American Ace of WWI, Successful Entrepreneur

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QUOTE #31

“So great is my veneration for the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable members of society.” - John Quincy Adams 1767-1848 6th US president

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QUOTE #32

“Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” - Helen Keller 1880-1968 blind & deaf American writer & lecturer

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QUOTE #33

“No man is beaten until his hope is annihilated, his confidence gone. As long as a man faces life hopefully, confidently, triumphantly he is not a failure; he is not beaten until he turns his back on life.” - Orison Swett Marden 1850-1924, Founder/Editor Success magazine

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Psalm 31:24

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Psalm 33:18

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QUOTE #34

“Children Learn What They Live: If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight. If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy. If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilty. If a child lives with impropriety, he learns to feel shame. If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient. If a child lives with encouragement he learns confidence. If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate. If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice. If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith. If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself. If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world. With what is your child living?” - Dorothy Law Neite – Author/Poet

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“Howard Hendricks”

In “Today in the Word” it is reported that, “Dr. Howard Hendricks of Dallas Theological Seminary says he can remember only two of his childhood school teachers; his fifth and sixth grade teachers. He had a reputation for causing trouble in the classroom. His fifth grade teacher dealt with him by tying him to his seat and wrapping mucilage paper over his mouth.

“Finally, Dr. Hendricks reports, he was promoted to the sixth grade. His teacher was 6’4” tall, ‘a feminine version of Sherlock Holmes.’ As he walked into her class she said, ‘Oh, you’re Howard Hendricks. I’ve heard a lot about you.’ But then she added, ‘But I don’t believe a word of it!’

“She convinced him that she had confidence in him, and Dr. Hendricks recalls that he knocked himself out to please her.”

Every child and every adult -- including the elderly — need lots of positive affirmation and encouragement. Everyone needs someone to believe in and love him/her ... without which we can shrivel up and die inside.

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QUOTE #35

“Youth is not entirely a time of life; it is a state of mind. Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubts; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.” - Douglas MacArthur 1880-1964 US General of the Army

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“Equipment”

(Recited by Dr. George Washington Carver during his commencement address at Selma University, Selma Alabama on May 27, 1942)

Courage must come from the soul within,
The man must furnish the will to win.
So figure it out for yourself, my lad.
You were born with all that the great have had,
With your equipment they all began,
Get hold of yourself and say: “I can.”

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2 Corinthians 3:4-5

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Hebrews 4:16

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