

No confidence in the flesh Notes
January 6, 2015 - Pastor Wilson

Key Verses

Philippians 3:3

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

I Cor 1:26-29

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Prov 28:26

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

As Christians, we all know that we should be doing something for God. God did not save us to sit on a shelf and look pretty. God doesn't have trophies that are put behind a glass case simply for the viewing and admiration.

Yet when we do get busy and start working for the Lord or doing something for the Lord, we must not make the mistake of relying heavily on our abilities or past accomplishments. By themselves these won't qualify us for a ministry, or help us a great deal when we minister. It's a big mistake to trust solely in our flesh, and not trust COMPLETELY in God's Spirit.

If anyone had the right to trust in his fleshly abilities it was Paul. Think about his qualifications. Can anyone give me one or two of Paul's qualifications?

1. Paul was a Jew, one of God's chosen people.
2. He was from the tribe of Benjamin, one of the two most elite tribes in Israel.
3. Paul was a student of Gamaliel, a noted theologian.
4. Paul was very devout and strictly kept the Old Testament Law.
5. Paul was zealous for the Jewish faith and one persecuted the Christians because he thought the Christians were spreading heresy.

But in Philippians the 3rd chapter, we find Paul putting all of his accomplishments in perspective:

Philippians 3:4-9

Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

After Paul became a Christian, Paul was quick to tell us that all his credentials were meaningless to his life. In fact, he considered his accomplishments to be no more than animal waste to him—that is what “dung” is. Paul laid aside his right to boast in his accomplishments so that he could REALLY know Christ in the fullness of His power!

God is not looking for your abilities, though he WILL use them if you dedicate them to Him. God is more interested in our availability, because He can use people who make themselves available. He can, and will do mighty things through followers who aren't of a mindset that says, “God is lucky to have me, I got talent and abilities to spare!”

John 15:4,5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

It doesn't get much plainer than that. Without Jesus WE CAN DO NOTHING. How many ministries, or followings that were built simply upon a “cult of personality,” crumbled or eventually came to nothing? Some leaders have a gift of gab, a winning smile, a magnetic personality and charisma. But charismatic leaders like Hitler, and Jim Jones eventually fall and their flock is destroyed or scattered.

As true Christians, we must strive to be like Paul and get rid of our confidence in self, and allow God to equip us with HIS POWER, so that we might minister more effectively.