

## **Perfect Shirts, Dogs, and Finding Your Way in the Woods**

**Confidence** – the feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust. (synonyms: trust, belief, faith, credence, conviction)

### **Hebrews 10:35 (ESV)**

Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

### **Philippians 3:1-3 (ESV)**

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. Look out for the **dogs**, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

### **Philippians 3:4-7 (ESV)**

Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

### **You belong! Belonging = confidence**

### **Hebrews 4:15-16 (ESV)**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## **How to Find Your Way in the Woods:**

### **Jeremiah 31:21 (ESV)**

Set up road markers for yourself; make yourself guideposts; consider well the highway, the road by which you went.

#### **1. Look Up!**

### **Psalms 121: 1-2 (ESV)**

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

#### **2. Eliminate the Exit Ramps – Set up Stones of Remembrance**

### **Joshua 4:1-7 (ESV)**

When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, “Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests’ feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’” Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”

### **3. Acknowledge What is Really Happening and Take Control of Your Thoughts**

#### **Romans 12:2 (ESV)**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

#### **2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)**

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

#### **Confidence produces endurance!**

#### **Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.