



# CONFIDENT FAITH

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North Texas Conference (NTC)  
United Methodist Women (UMW)  
Spiritual Growth Retreat  
Elgie Loyd • Retreat Leader

## Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”



# Spiritual Growth

- Spiritual growth is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. When we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins the process of making us more like Him, conforming us to His image. We can then take our Christ-like qualities out into the world and make a difference.
- United Methodist Women (UMW) is an organization that is grounded in the teachings of Jesus, and we take this identity with us wherever we go. It stays with us and shapes the way we interact with others, as we commit ourselves to the purpose and the mission of UMW around the world, as we have done for over 150 years.

# "Confident Faith: Topic #1

How can we confidently live and express our faith in the times in which we live today?

# "Confident Faith" Topic #1

- We do this through **Philippians 1:6**: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (KJV)
- We must believe that true confidence is found in God. One of the most challenging things for us is in becoming confident is to believe that God's way is better than whatever we are trying to do to find confidence. This is the first step, and the most crucial one: understanding that confident faith is only found and placed in Christ.
- Mailing a letter (will my letter arrive?), driving a car and stopping (will my car stop when I brake?), boarding an airplane for a trip (will I reach my destination?), and working 40-50 hours/week (will I get paid?): these are the worldly things in which we have "confident faith."

# "Confident Faith" Topic #1

- As believers, we know – without a shadow of a doubt – that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
- Scripture: 1 John 5:11-15
- When we pray, we can have "confident faith" knowing that our prayers will be heard and answered, especially with this pandemic. We can have peace with God even when our lives are not peaceful, and we can have the assurance of salvation during a time of uncertainty.

# "Confident Faith" Topic #2

Confidence vs. Faith:  
What is the difference?

# "Confident Faith" Topic #2

- Are faith and confidence the same? The difference between **confidence** and **faith** is that **confidence** is **self-assurance** while **faith** is a **feeling, conviction**, or a **belief** that something is true or real, an action that is not contingent upon reason or justification.
- Scripture: Hebrews 11:1
- **Faith** gives the assurance that you will have the money when you need it; the physical strength to do the work that you must do
- **Faith** proves the hope that things will turn out all right for us no matter the situation or the circumstances

# "Confident Faith" Topic #2

- As we previously examined and discussed examples of confidence, we learned that **confidence** is a strong assurance of what we deem to be facts and that **faith** is a feeling or inner hope for that thing to happen – leaving room for doubt.
- Today, we snuff out all doubt and put our total faith – "confident faith" – in Christ Jesus.

## “Confident Faith” Topic #3

Why is having faith so important?

# "Confident Faith" Topic #3

- Faith is a very important component to all human life. It gets us through pathways in times of darkness and while helping to give us strength in times of weakness. Through our **faith**, we conquer the world.
- Scripture: 1 John 5:1-5
- Our faith in Him is everything. It give us hope, and hope does not disappoint us.
- Scripture: Isaiah 41:10
- This is the hope and "confident faith" we have in Christ Jesus. He is all we need and more than enough.

# "Confident Faith" Topic #4

## Confidence Killers

# "Confident Faith" Topic #4

- There are so many types of confidence killers, most of which we never think of.
- Confidence killers also equate to doubt, and doubt is one of Satan's favorite ways to turn people away from God. He used it on Adam and Eve, and he is still using it on us today.
- Satan knows that if he can plant a single seed of doubt in a person, that individual can allow it to grow without the devil ever lifting a finger.
- Scripture: **Genesis 3:1-5**: Eve eventually doubted the word of God after her encounter with Satan.
- Right there, in that moment, Eve's faith was broken, and her confidence level was lowered. She did not even realize it or saw it coming. The enemy took her fast and broke her down. He enticed her with his crafty ways and planted the seeds of doubt, worry, pain, and lies. Subtle and cunning and so crafty: Eve was naïve to the act. This is how Satan tricks and deceives us. This is how Satan steals our faith and confidence.

# "Confident Faith" Topic #4

◦ Let us identify some confidence killers:

- Doubt
- Worry
- Negativity
- Ungratefulness
- Procrastination
- Things we read
- Feeling unworthy
- Living in the past
- Seeking approval
- Using bad language

# "Confident Faith" Topic #4

- Let us identify some confidence killers:
  - Stealing, cheating, lying
  - Things we watch on television
  - Pain
  - Sickness
  - Diseases
  - Fear and failure
  - Low self esteem
  - Bad relationships

# "Confident Faith" Topic #4

- All these things can destroy our faith, lower our confidence, and break us down.
- Small subtle acts can make us doubt God and place our trust in other things and other people.
- The devil comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. It is his job, his agenda, and his purpose, but we can overcome the works of the enemy through our "confident faith" in Jesus Christ.

## "Confident Faith" Topic #5

How do I increase my confidence in God?

# "Confident Faith" Topic #5

- We increase our confidence by increasing our faith. Sometimes we may find it hard to depend on God when we are so accustomed to relying on ourselves, other things, or other people; however, the Bible teaches us how to build confidence in God through our faith.
- Our faith is increased to the next level, not just by hearing God's word. The real confidence comes from applying it. God's word is powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword.
- When we become doers of the word and apply God's word to our daily lives, we will be blessed in everything we do.
- Scripture: James 1:23-25

# Four Easy Ways to Increase Our Faith

1. Prayer increases our faith. [Luke 17:5](#)
2. Understanding the power of faith increases our faith. [1 John 5:4 & Luke 17:5-6](#)
3. Hearing and obeying the word of God increases our faith. [James 1:25 & Romans 10:17](#)
4. Prayer and fasting increases our faith. [Matthew 17:19-21](#)

# “Confident Faith” Topic #6: Reflection Questions

1. How do we obtain confidence in our faith to take it to the next level?
2. How can you start to apply these steps to develop “confident faith”?
3. Whose lives around you would be positively impacted if you became more confident in your faith?

# “Confident Faith”: Addendum: Fruits of the Spirit

- Scripture: Fruits of the Spirit - **Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)**: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
- Additional “fruits of the Spirit”: patience, kindness, goodness, self control
- “Fruits of the Spirit”: these are contrary to “confidence killers”; if we live by the “fruits of the Spirit,” we can experience these types of emotions and acts such as joy, peace, and self control

# “Confident Faith”: Addendum: Fruits of the Spirit

- “Confidence Killers” are not “fruits of the Spirit”
- “Confidence Killers” are emotions which break down our spirit, and most people find them hard to work through
- Each person seeks Christ for themselves
- Reading God’s word will provide relation knowledge so one will not be led astray; seek His knowledge for self-revelation
- No one person knows all that God has for one; what seems troubling for one person may not affect another

# "Confident Faith": Addendum: Additional Resources

- Scripture: Romans 10:17
- Scripture: Hebrews 13:8
- Scripture: James 1:12



# THANK YOU!

Questions?

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