

## Confidence (notes from Brad Habrick)

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It is important to identify beliefs, fears, values, expectations, and interpretations of life which can prevent confidence.

1. PURPOSE – Confidence requires knowing what you are called to do. It is understanding mixed with purpose.
2. WISDOM – Decreasing the delay and anxiety in acting requires not just the willingness to act, but also the wisdom to know how to act. Confidence is only a virtue when it is rooted in understanding.

### THREE PARTS TO CONFIDENCE

The more we aim at confidence, the more we miss the mark. Increased effort causes us to “fixate.” Confidence is the by-product of three things.

1. Faith placed in things that cannot be taken away (see article on relativism & apologetics)
2. Proper Evaluation – Many people tend to evaluate all of life based on a few incidents or areas of performance. Proper evaluation requires reaching a point of comfortably admitting weakness and vulnerability in order for confidence not to mutate into pride. This is different from listing deficiencies. Confidence that does not readily acknowledge areas of weakness is MASKED insecurity.
3. Contentment is a hard concept for us to grasp. Everything in our culture tells us to want more, do more, go further, work harder, etc.... Yet, confidence is rooted in contentment, which may be defined as the restful and active enjoyment of our calling.

Few things disrupt life with a stealth-like quietness more than an undisciplined thought life. With contentment the fantasies often seem nobler. The thought, “If only I had \_\_\_\_\_, then I would \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s glory.” This can easily become the Trojan horse of discontentment.

Conclusion: A lack of confidence either calls into question God’s ability to enable you to do good or your desire to do them. Confidence is rooted in how you see God and how you see the job He has given you to do.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge my weaknesses and limitations without beating myself up.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am able to respond to mistakes and failures with hope, because I recognize that God works progressively.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am able to ask for assistance

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not usually think things like "if only I could \_\_\_\_\_, then I could \_\_\_\_\_"

\_\_\_\_\_ I am perfectly content

In situations where you lack confidence, analyze it according to faith, true evaluation, and contentment.