



## CONFIDENCE 1 Why & In Whom?



### OPENING QUESTIONS:

- Are you stepping into 2017 confident or in trepidation?
- Are you full of hope or anxiety, faith or fear, optimism or pessimism, strength or weakness, wholeness or hurt?

### INTRO MULTIPLE CHOICE → Answer on a sliding scale from 1-10. Where are you?

- 2017, new year, fresh start, different set of challenges, how do you feel?  
1: Trepidation, dread, considerable anxiety, only good thing is no longer 2016  
10: Bring it on, what's next, can't come soon enough, show me the mountain
- You enter room full of strangers at Christian conference, how do you feel?  
1: Terrified, where's exit, ground swallow me up  
10: Bring it on, let me at it, where's the party
- Gathered for family meal with non-Christian family, much to your surprise, out of blue, uncle Eddie says, Jonny would you mind saying grace?  
1: Choke in mulled wine  
10: Take step forward + recite from Ps, Prov, Rom + Rev as you pray up a storm
- Your friend complains of severe shoulder pain, what do you do?  
1: Hide that you're Bible-believing Christian, keep v. quiet or run to washroom  
10: Let's pray right here, right now, here in supermarket, in middle of office, standing here at bar

### THE PERSONALITY FACTOR: Some are NATURALLY confident; others LESS SO.

Is it NATURE or NURTURE?

- \* SPIRITUAL NURTURE = Your GROWTH and MATURITY as a Christian.
  - \* NATURAL NURTURE = Your UPBRINGING, PAST experiences, HURTS, wins and losses.
- Which do you think is the greater contributor to confidence: Nature or nurture? And for you is it Spiritual Nurture or Natural Nurture? Which is the stronger factor for you: Spiritual nature (Christ in you the hope of glory) or natural nature (personality, wiring, DNA)?

### INTERESTING LEADING QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to be CONFIDENT?
- What's relationship between confidence + arrogance, confidence + pride, confidence + denial of reality?
- What does confidence look like for CHRISTIAN?
- How does it get threatened? Enemy knows if he can break down your confidence = greatly limit effectiveness
- What could we achieve together, with confidence in God, ourselves, each other, our mission, His Word?

### CONFIDENCE: 'con' = WITH; 'fidere' = TO TRUST

→ Lit. with FAITH or TRUST in SOMETHING or SOMEONE

There's a confidence that comes from our RELATIONSHIP with, STATUS in, RELIANCE upon CHRIST.

OR a SELF-confidence that rests on my ABILITY / PERSONALITY / SKILLS.

→ Which of those two is your confidence rooted in? Can you describe a time in your life when that changed? How tempting is it to rely on your own self-confidence and why is that dangerous / limiting?

### 4 SCENARIOS

- WEAK, VULNERABLE, FEARFUL you + NO God = DIFFICULT ROAD AHEAD.
- WEAK, VULNERABLE, FEARFUL you + God IN YOUR LIFE = POSSIBILITIES, but chances are your VULNERABILITIES, HURTS, DESTRUCTIVE EMOTIONS will TRIP YOU UP more often than not.
- STRONG, SELF-CONFIDENT, SELF-RELIANT you + NO God = SELF-RIGHTEOUS, SELF-DEPENDENT ... You can live like that and will have some SUCCESSES, but there'll be no SUPERNATURAL, God squeezed out, pride comes before a fall
- Both WHOLE you + FULL OF God = POWERFUL, turbo-charged combination.  
→ Can you be naturally, emotionally lacking in confidence and spiritually confident at the same time? What does lacking in confidence look like? What does it feel like?  
→ Where are you on this continuum? How has that changed / is that changing on your journey?

**THE PREMISE:** God wants to take each of us on a JOURNEY to becoming

- WHOLE, 2. FULL, so we can be 3. BOLD for Him

### WHAT SCRIPTURE TEACHES

- God is WORTHY of our confidence (Psalm 18:2, 145:3, Isaiah 33:5-7)  
→ Why? Should be a good, long list!
- God should be the FOUNDATION of our confidence (2 Corinthians 2:34-5, Philippians 3:3-4, 1 Corinthians 10:12 (MSG))
  - \* You can place confidence in YOURSELF, but that will be the LIMIT.
  - \* Confidence placed in THE LORD is far SUPERIOR, much more STABLE and will take you a great deal FURTHER.

→ On what or whom is your confidence based?
- There's great STRENGTH that comes from properly-rooted God-confidence (Psalm 18:31-33, Isaiah 30:15, Jeremiah 17:7-8)
  - \* We need to be STRONG (Ephesians 6:10, 1 Thessalonians 3:13 (MSG), Psalm 73:26, 62:6)

→ What is the relationship between confidence and strength? Can you be lacking in confidence and strong? Can you be confident and lacking in strength?

**THE DEFINITION:** Confidence is a deeply-rooted sense of SURE FOUNDATION, BOLD FAITH & INNER STRENGTH based on fact that the CONFIDENT ONE went BEFORE you, LIVES INSIDE & WALKS WITH you.