

Sound mind 3

Confidence or boldness is a hallmark of a sound mind. A sureness of things that allows a person to walk with confidence. Public speaking has always been a struggle for me but I have noticed that if I have confidence in the subject in which I am speaking then I can stand and speak. The truth of God's word should do just that in the hearts of believers. The more confident we are in something the more we will be able to withstand anything that comes against us. **Isa 54:17** "No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And you will condemn every tongue that accuses you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD.

Accusations of the devil, false claims from other people, even physical attacks or the loss of material possessions will not prosper against the believer who has his or her hope firmly set on Christ. **Rom 8:6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but **the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace**, This is the work of rebuilding the wall. Being safe and secure from all alarms. But when our confidence shifts off of Jesus work on the cross for our righteousness and our life we become arrogant. Am I or others really saved? How this question strikes at the core of the confidence a child of God should have. Allowing our eyes to shift off of the finished work of Christ and onto what we do and or other's do causes our confidence shrinks. If there is any question, let us continue to affirm the Gospel truth in our lives and in the lives of others. And know that we may boldly approach the throne of grace to aid us in that comprehension.

Reviving the stones – A living hope

Neh 4:1 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry, and **he mocked the Jews.**

Neh 4:2 And he spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy people of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore *the temple* for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish *it* in a day? Can they **revive** the stones from the heaps of rubble, even the burned ones?"

Neh 4:3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* near him, and he said, "Even what they are building—if a fox were to jump *on it*, it would break their stone wall down!"

A little faith doubts the righteousness of Christ for protection and confidence and no faith mocks the truth.

Pro 15:14 The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

1Co 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Our hope of eternal life is not built with dead works but rather by the finished work of Jesus Christ. For us, our security is based on a “living hope”

1Ti 4:10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because **we have set our hope** on the living God, who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1Pe 1:5 who are protected by the power of God **through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in *the* last time.

The wall of faith

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom 5:2 through whom **we** also have obtained our introduction **by faith** into this **grace** in which **we** stand; and **we** celebrate in hope of the glory of God.

The inner man needs Christ set as Lord – to be the sentinel of our minds.

1Pe 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect;

1Pe 3:16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

Set your hope – build the wall

1Pe 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, **set your hope** completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Prayer is the means by which we may receive a strengthened heart.

Psa 10:17 LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their heart, You will make Your ear attentive

A strengthened heart stands fully assured

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of your *own*, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings, always striving earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may **stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.**

Adding anything to Jesus negates the confirming work. Looking any other place than to Christ for our righteousness or justification will cause doubt. Meditate on it day and night, The things which angels long to look, as we are to be looking to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith

Be prepared – Stand fast (Gal. 5:1)

Putting on Christ or the full armor of God prepares us for action. The shield of faith can certainly deflect the fiery darts of the adversary... and we also need feet that do not slip on the lies of the devil.

Eph 6:15 and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Luk 1:17 "And *it is* he *who* will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF FATHERS BACK TO *THEIR* CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the **attitude of the righteous, to make ready** a people prepared for the Lord."

2Ti 2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be an implement for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

1Sa 2:9 "He watches over the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a person prevail.

Psa 94:18 If I should say, "My foot has slipped," Your faithfulness, LORD, will support me.

Firmly set on a solid foundation we can then pray and speak with confidence like Nehemiah and the disciples.

Neh 4:4 Hear, O our God, how we are *an object of* contempt! Return their taunting on their own heads, and turn them into plunder in a land of captivity.

Neh 4:5 Do not forgive their guilt and do not let their sin be wiped out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

Or the New Testament version:

Act 4:29 "And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant *it* to Your bond-servants to speak Your word **with all confidence**,

Act 4:30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

1Th 3:8 for now we *really* live, **if you stand firm in the Lord.**