



Day 1

Read Acts 9:28 and Acts 28:30-31.

CONFIDENCE:

full trust; belief in the powers, trustworthiness, or reliability of a person or a thing

Are you a confident person?

In which situations do you find yourself most confident?

At work? With family?

With those who know you best or those who know you least?

How does having, or not having, confidence affect your behavior?

Paul (Saul)'s full trust and belief in the gospel resulted in his bold approach to preaching. Because of our confidence in technology and engineering, we confidently take a seat on an airplane weighing around 6½ tons and expect it to fly.

Confidence (or the lack of it) makes a difference as to how we live our lives.

How has having confidence affected a decision you've made?

Has it affected how you've behaved toward others?

Day 2

Read 1 John 1:1-4, 1 John 2:12-14, and 1 John 2:28.

The Apostle John begins his letter reminding readers of the reason for their confidence.

When do we most often need to be reminded of the confidence/hope we have?

Describe a time when your own confidence was shaken.

What caused your confidence to be shaken? What was the result?

What was the source of your confidence?

Look back at the definition of confidence from Day 1.

Without confidence it's impossible to move forward when caught in a gridlock of doubt, fear, and confusion.

The Apostle John wrote 1 John to call believers back to basic faith and confidence in their relationship with Jesus. John understood that confidence and assurance would free us to love God and love others.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

1 John 5:13

Day 3

Read John 17:3.

John uses the word **know** 32 times describing experiential knowledge which leads to relational knowledge. It's more than simply reading the information and reciting the lines. It's about knowing and experiencing in such a way as it changes us. **THINK** about the word **know** in this experiential way as you read through these scriptures:

John 10:14, John 17:3, and 1 John 5:20.

*According to these verses, what does understanding the relational aspect of **knowing** say about our own relationship with God through Jesus?*

John believed in a personal love relationship with God. He also believed we could have confidence in that living love relationship.

Set your alarm to go off two or three times throughout the day. Each time it goes off, take 5 minutes to become aware of Jesus' presence.

Become aware of Him. Talk to Him. Tell him you love Him.

Day 4 and Day 5

Memorize John 17:3.

Do you agree with this statement?

Real Christianity understands that God doesn't give us life, He becomes our life.

True confidence is found through a living love relationship with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. This relationship produces the fruit of righteous behavior, love for God and people, and a belief in the historical Jesus.

John gives examples of the evidence by using different themes
CONFIDENCE ~ FELLOWSHIP ~ KNOW ~ SPIRIT ~ LIGHT ~ LOVE

TAKE the next couple days to read all five chapters of 1 John.

NOTE the different themes used and how John relates them to a living love relationship with God. As you read, prayerfully **CONSIDER** your own relationship with God.

ASK the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the true condition of your love relationship with the Father.