

# Godfidence



GodSaidSo Press

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**Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series**

Written by Eric Krieg

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# Godfidence

## Lesson 1: Who Is God?

How do you view yourself? How you view yourself matters a great deal to how you live and the decisions you make (Proverbs 4:23; Luke 6:43-45). For, we tend to make decisions about our lives from the things we believe about ourselves – i.e. decisions about morality, religion, marriage and family, your education and career, the way you dress, what kind of car you drive, etc. Unfortunately, most people are taught to measure their sense of worth in the wrong ways. In fact, the entire scale and process people use to measure their sense of worth is deeply flawed. This has resulted in an unfathomable amount of damage throughout this world. What we need is a new way to view our worth that will lead to making decisions that are actually beneficial (i.e. Godfidence – God-confidence).

The purpose of this lesson is to learn the ways in which people often measure their sense of worth, how Satan is spreading these standards of measurement, and some results of people living with an unbiblical view of themselves.

### **Standards For Measuring Your Worth**

**The standard you use matters.** Imagine going into a doctor's office and he uses a random stick each time to measure your height. One day, he says you measure 3 ¼ sticks tall. Another day, you are 5 ¾ sticks tall. Another, you are 4 ½ sticks tall. What would those numbers mean to you? Unfortunately, most people throughout the world are using all kinds of different standards to measure their sense of worth, which are not actually helpful in determining their true worth!

**Physical standards are deeply flawed.** Most people measure what is important to them so they can see whether they are improving or losing in those areas (i.e. weight, retirement savings). As you measure the value of your life, you will either use a physical standard or one that is spiritual in nature. Of course, the overwhelming majority of people in this world use standards that are physical in nature.

Jesus teaches the flawed nature of trusting in physical things (Matthew 6:19-21). Namely every physical thing is only temporary in nature, while spiritual things are eternal. So, using physical standards will result in making decisions that only have a temporary impact. In fact, if you measure your worth by things that do not last, what does that say about your worth itself? It can only imply that you are not worth anything beyond when those things end! However, if something spiritual that lasts determines your worth, then your worth surpasses anything that is temporary!

In addition to not producing a truly accurate measurement of your worth, physical standards of measurement will also leave you unfulfilled and unsatisfied. For, at best, you will

realize they are all just temporary and you can be separated from the things you perceive as giving you value at any moment! As King Solomon reflected on his life, he concluded everything about his physical life was useless (Ecclesiastes 1:2-4) – even though he was an extremely wealthy man who seemed to have everything a person could want to consider himself valuable. Instead, he concluded the only thing that mattered was whether he feared God and kept His commands (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

**Common physical standards.** Many people use physical standards to measure their worth. Consider the following as a sample of physical things many people use to determine their worth: Money, possessions, family, career, friendships, education and knowledge, pleasures, appearance, prestige, experiences, accomplishments, skills, and satisfaction. There are undoubtedly many other ways people use physical standards to measure their worth.

**Lives built on sand.** What happens as people build their sense of worth by using such physically focused standards of value is like building a house on the sand. The house may appear beautiful from all outward appearances, but the faulty foundation will not hold together. So, when the storms of life hit, cracks in the house start to appear. Then, when death comes, this house will completely collapse. Jesus taught about building on the right foundation in Luke 6:46-49.

The right foundation involves hearing His words and obeying them! This is essential to having a well-built life. This, then, also applies to having a well-built view of yourself. To get to this place, you must dig deep and remove all the faulty foundations you have been building your life and your sense of worth on. Then, you must carefully lay the proper foundation God wants you to lay in your life concerning your true worth (Godfidence)! So, evaluate your life carefully right now. Have you been building your sense of worth on physical things that are temporary or spiritual things that are eternal?

### **Satan Tries To Distort Your Sense Of Worth**

**Satan is actively trying to distort your sense of worth.** The sooner you recognize there are evil forces at work throughout this world, the sooner you will be prepared not to accept all the evil messages in the world about your worth. God has warned us that Satan is actively working in this world to deceive and manipulate you (Ephesians 6:12, 16; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:26).

While we often focus on all the enemies and threats we face physically, God warns that there is a greater conflict we are facing that is spiritual in nature! Satan is described as a roaring lion who is actively prowling around looking for anyone to devour and has been successful to enslave many in his traps. Satan undoubtedly knows that how you view yourself matters a great deal in determining how you live and will try to manipulate the way you view yourself! So, it is naïve and foolish to think that Satan will not be actively trying to deceive and manipulate the way you view yourself!

**The whole world is under Satan's sway.** Satan is not working alone to deceive and manipulate. The Bible teaches he has angels and those who are working with him (Matthew 25:41). Although I do not understand everything about how these associates of Satan work, you must recognize they are working in this world to accomplish Satan's mission!

Then, the Bible also teaches Satan is actively working through other people he has been successful in deceiving and manipulating. In fact, 1 John 5:19 makes it clear that the whole world is under Satan's sway. So, the messages these people spread have been influenced by Satan in some way – including their messages about how to identify your worth! This means you must be on guard against any message about your worth that comes from anyone other than God! In fact, Satan is trying to convince us to measure our worth by comparing ourselves to others (2 Corinthians 10:12).

**Ways Satan is spreading distorted messages about your worth.** You must increase your awareness about how Satan is spreading messages that pertain to your worth. For, you do not have to be ignorant about the ways in which Satan is trying to deceive and manipulate you (2 Corinthians 2:11)! Satan tries to spread false messages about worth through parents, peers, culture, media, experiences, etc.

### **Results Of An Unbiblical View Of Yourself**

**An unbiblical view of yourself has consequences.** As we began this study (Proverbs 4:23; Luke 6:43-45), we must recognize that how you view yourself has a tremendous impact throughout your life. As a result, a Biblical view of yourself will result in making decisions that are spiritually beneficial. However, an unbiblical view of yourself will result in making decisions that are spiritually harmful (and often physically harmful).

**Consequences of an unbiblical view of yourself.** You can observe many things that happen as a result of people having an unbiblical view of themselves. And, maybe these things are true about you. Consider the following examples (though not an exhaustive list): Selfishness, arrogance, covetousness, depression, suicide, jealousy and envy, conformity, fear and worry, misplaced priorities, mistreating others, self-pity and excuses, addictions, harmful legacy, etc.

### **Conclusion**

Every person has developed a way he/she views himself/herself. But, Satan has been actively working in this world to influence people *not* to have a Biblical view of themselves. Challenge yourself to honestly evaluate whether you have adopted any of these physically focused standards of determining your value. If so, look carefully at your life and see that you have been building a house on sand – and all the negative things that have been happening in your life as a result! Thankfully, God has given us a way to find our true value, as we will be considering throughout this series.

# **Godfidence**

*Seeing Yourself As God Sees You*

## **Lesson 1: Dangers Of An Unbiblical View Of Yourself**

How do you see yourself? Why do you think this matters?

### **1. Standards For Measuring Your Worth**

How does the standard you use matter?

Why are physical standards deeply flawed?

What are some common physical standards used to measure one's worth?

How is using physical standards like building your life on sand?

## **2. Satan Tries To Distort Your Sense Of Worth**

Is Satan actively trying to distort your sense of worth? Why is he doing this?

Is Satan alone in this work? Who is he also using?

What are some common ways Satan is trying to influence your sense of worth?

## **3. Results Of An Unbiblical View Of Yourself**

Is an unbiblical view of yourself harmless?

What are some consequences of an unbiblical view of yourself?

# Godfidence

## Lesson 2: Two Insufficient Perspectives Of Self

Many talk about the importance of self-confidence and view themselves in this way. However, many exist on the opposite end of this spectrum and are insecure about themselves. Others exist somewhere between these two points. But, as you compare this spectrum with the teachings of the Bible, something isn't right. Both self-confidence and insecurity have some areas where they seem to succeed and fail in helping us see ourselves as we should. Therefore, it should be clear there is a problem with the spectrum itself. If we want to develop the proper perspective of ourselves, we must change the standard from one that is focused on physical things to one that is focused on spiritual things (Romans 8:5-8). This is how we will be able to develop God-confidence (Godfidence)!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn how self-confidence and insecurity provide insufficient perspectives of how we see ourselves and to identify the Biblical perspective.

### Self-Confidence

**What is self-confidence?** Many of the "experts" say that self-confidence is a valuable character trait and the proper way to view yourself. Namely, self-confidence is trusting in yourself and your own abilities. Although the "experts" agree this can be taken too far and result in bad things like narcissism, it is generally believed to be a good thing.

Consider a Biblical example of self-confidence from Luke 18:10-13. Verse 9 tells the circumstances that prompted the parable. Here were people who possessed self-confidence. They looked at themselves and thought they were right with God because of who they were and the things they had done – just like the Pharisee in Jesus's parable.

**Why some are self-confident.** Some people are self-confident because of how they look, who their families are, what they have, what they can do, what they have done, etc. You need to evaluate yourself and see if this is how you view yourself. Then, you must evaluate self-confidence by the teachings of the Bible. If it fails in any area, you must stay away from it (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

**Where self-confidence succeeds.** It can be tempting to think self-confidence is the way you should view yourself – because it promotes the idea that your life has value. The Bible certainly agrees with this idea (i.e. Romans 12:1). God clearly wants you to give yourself entirely to His service because He can use you to glorify Him.

**Where self-confidence fails.** The Bible disagrees with certain points of self-confidence. Namely, self-confidence does not just promote the idea that your life has value, but that this



value is found within yourself or physical things. Think back to the parable in Luke 18 about those who were self-confident and listen to Jesus's conclusion in verse 14.

Self-confidence fails because it puts its confidence in self and overlooks your failures and shortcomings. The Bible teaches that we have all sinned (Romans 3:23)! So, how could you possibly find value in yourself when you have sinned against God and cannot save yourself (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9)? Furthermore, self-confidence also fails because it focuses on physical things that don't last and that you don't control (1 Timothy 6:7; Matthew 6:19-21). You simply cannot be self-confident in physical things because nothing about your life on earth will last for very long! Therefore, self-confidence fails to be the way God wants you to view yourself (James 4:6).

### **Insecurity**

**What is insecurity?** Since self-confidence is not the way the Bible teaches you to view yourself, we now go to the other end of the spectrum. Although most "experts" would warn against insecurity, it must be evaluated. Namely, insecurity involves the lack of confidence in yourself.

Consider a Biblical example of insecurity from Jacob's family (who was one of the Israelite fathers in the Old Testament). First, consider the insecurity in Jacob's wives. Genesis 29 describes how Jacob got into a polygamous marriage relationship with sisters, Leah and Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah (29:30) and the two sisters/wives got into a battle that involved bearing children for Jacob (including through their maids). Their children's names even reflect how they were searching for value in their husband's eyes through their children (i.e. 29:31-35). After everything was done, Jacob had twelve sons and one daughter by four women. Then, Jacob's children also had insecurities, as Jacob loved Joseph more than the others so that they hated Joseph and tried to harm him (Genesis 37:3-4).

**Why some are insecure.** Some people are insecure because of their own weaknesses, how they look, what they cannot do, where they come from, mistakes they have made, what they don't have, how they think they compare with others, etc. You need to evaluate yourself and see if this is how you view yourself. Then, you must evaluate insecurity by the teachings of the Bible. If it fails in any area, you must stay away from it (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

**Where insecurity succeeds.** It can be tempting to think insecurity is the way you should view yourself – because it has a modest view of yourself. The Bible certainly agrees with this idea (Luke 18:13-14). While Jesus was not teaching you to be insecure in this passage, He does want you to see your own personal failures and look outside of yourself.

**Where insecurity fails.** The Bible disagrees with certain points of insecurity. Namely, insecurity still puts the focus on measuring your value by physical things. Think back to Jacob's family. They saw physical things as measurements of their value (i.e. children, special robe).

Insecurity fails because it bases its lack of value on physical things (i.e. what you don't have). These insecurities are often based on measuring yourself against what you see in others

(2 Corinthians 10:12). Therefore, insecurity fails to be the way to view yourself, as God says that your life is valuable (Luke 12:7) – but not because of physical things!

### **God-Confidence (AKA “Godfidence”)**

**What is Godfidence?** There is clearly something wrong with viewing yourself along this spectrum between self-confidence and insecurity. Since they both determine your value (or lack thereof) based on physical things, you need an entirely different measurement. This is Godfidence – seeing yourself as God sees you! It is finding your sense of worth through God.

Consider a Biblical example of Godfidence in Joseph. Although Joseph grew up in the dysfunctional environment of Jacob’s house, Joseph developed the ability to look at himself and his situation through God. Consider the circumstances in Genesis 39:8-10; Genesis 50:19-21; and Genesis 50:24-25. While this does not mean he never struggled or sinned, it does mean that Joseph seemed to have the general perspective of seeing himself and his circumstances through the lens of how God saw him!

**How Godfidence succeeds.** Godfidence is not merely an improvement over self-confidence and insecurity. Rather, Godfidence is the only way to view yourself as God sees you! Godfidence succeeds because it recognizes God sees things different than people do, looking at much more than physical appearances (1 Samuel 16:7). Godfidence succeeds because it focuses on spiritual things above physical things (Romans 8:6). Godfidence succeeds because it provides harmony between the characteristics God wants us to develop and the value, purpose, and goal He has created us to possess (contrast Galatians 5:19-21 and 22-23). And, Godfidence succeeds because it will lead you to live a life that is pleasing to God and results in eternal life in Heaven (Galatians 6:7-8)!

**How to develop Godfidence.** While there are many self-help resources focused on you finding the proper sense of self-worth, they fail because they are using the wrong spectrum of measurement and development. The only source that will perfectly lead you to developing Godfidence is the Bible. In the next few lessons, we will focus on some key discoveries from the Bible that will help you develop Godfidence. Consider three steps.

Step 1 of developing Godfidence is to know your value by knowing your Creator and knowing your Savior. Step 2 of developing Godfidence is to know your purpose by knowing your mission and knowing your usefulness. And, step 3 of developing Godfidence is to know your goal by knowing your definition of success and knowing your standards.

### **Conclusion**

You need to develop a Biblical view of yourself. Self-confidence is not that view. Insecurity is not that view. Anything in between these is not that view! Godfidence is the only way to view yourself that is truly the right way to view yourself. For, it finds your value, purpose, and goal by looking to God!

# **Godfidence**

*Seeing Yourself As God Sees You*

## **Lesson 2: Two Insufficient Perspectives Of Self**

What spectrum is often used to determine how a person sees himself/herself?

### **1. Self-Confidence**

What is self-confidence?

Why are some people self-confident?

Where does self-confidence succeed?

Where does self-confidence fail?

### **2. Insecurity**

What is insecurity?

Why are some people insecure?

Where does insecurity succeed?

Where does insecurity fail?

### **3. God-Confidence (AKA "Godfidence")**

What is Godfidence?

Why does Godfidence succeed?

How can you develop Godfidence?

# Godfidence

## Lesson 3: Know Your Value

Having considered the dangers of an unbiblical view of yourself and seeing the insufficient ways people often determine their value, we have established the need for Godfidence (God-confidence). But, how do you actually go about developing this in your life so that you can truly see yourself as God sees you? The first step we will consider in developing Godfidence is to know your value. However, of all the different things people look to in developing an understanding of their value, there are ultimately two ways you can know your true value that rises above all other metrics! These are to know your Creator and to know your Savior. Without these, you really cannot have a true grasp of your value. But, with a proper understanding of these, you will unlock the deepest sense of value possible!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn your true value by getting to know your Creator and Savior.

### **Know Your Creator**

**There is a God.** You cannot possibly have a proper understanding of your value by rejecting the existence of God! Tragically, that is exactly how many are taught. Take a moment, though, to consider who you are – if there is no God. If there is no God, you are merely a byproduct of random chances and processes that developed over time. However, all of this changes if there is a God. Thankfully, we can know the answer to the question about whether God exists by using our own observations (Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:18-20)! This changes everything about your value!

**What makes God special.** Since there really is a God, it is impossible to understand who you are without understanding who He is. As you consider these things, there are four things that really sets God apart from every other being. First, God is eternal so that He is not bound by time and has needed no creator (Psalm 90:1-2; Revelation 4:8). Second, God is all-powerful so that He can do whatever pleases Himself (Psalm 115:3; Colossians 1:16). Third, God is all-knowing so that there is nothing that escapes His understanding (Isaiah 46:9-10; Romans 11:33-36). And, fourth, God is ever-present so that nothing can possibly escape His attention (Psalm 139:1-12; Hebrews 4:13). Then, God is also holy (Revelation 4:8), loving (John 3:16), patient (2 Peter 3:9), gracious (Ephesians 2:7), merciful (Ephesians 2:4), kind (Titus 3:4), impartial (Romans 2:11), unchanging (James 1:17), severe (Romans 11:22), and so much more! To have the proper understanding of your value, you must carefully get to really know how great God is!

**God created the universe.** It is fascinating to think about this God, who does not need anything from anything or anyone, creating this world and everything in it. This is exactly what we can read about happening in Genesis 1 and 2. In six 24-hour days, God created everything

that exists – by speaking (Psalm 33:6-9; Genesis 1:3)! And, He did this for Himself and His glory (Revelation 4:11; Isaiah 6:3).

**God created you.** It is important for you to stand in awe of God and His ability to create everything that exists in the universe so that you can better appreciate the fact that the same God has created you – and set you above all the physical creation! Read Genesis 1:26-31 carefully. Genesis 2:7 then further explains that God created the first man from the dust of the ground and Genesis 2:22 explains that God created the first woman from the man’s rib. So, mankind is valuable enough in the sight of this awesome God that He chose to create us and to give us dominion over the rest of His physical creation (Psalm 8:3-8)! But, it is not just that God created the first man and woman and then stepped aside and let “nature” run its course for everyone else. Rather, consider how other Bible writers considered themselves to have been known by God and formed by God in their mother’s wombs (Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5)! The same is true about each one of us!

**God created you in His image.** Not only has God created you, but He created you in a special way that is different from every other physical thing in this universe (Genesis 1:26-27). You being created in the image of God means that you have been created with a spiritual nature, not just a physical nature (John 4:24). This spirit/soul allows you to seek God and worship God throughout your life (Acts 17:26-27). Furthermore, it means that your existence does not end when you die (Ecclesiastes 12:7)! And, this all works to demonstrate that your value surpasses the rest of God’s physical creation (Luke 12:6-7).

**God provides for you.** As the psalmist reflected on God’s creation in Psalm 104 and thought about God’s countless works that had been done through His wisdom, He recognized how they all depend on God (vv. 27-30). As our Creator, God knows every one of His creations in the most detailed way imaginable, including everything about us and all of our needs and knows how to give good gifts to His children to provide for our physical necessities (Matthew 7:9-11; James 1:17).

### **Know Your Savior**

**Your sin separates you from your Creator.** This awesome God who created you has also given you a law to live by in the pages of the New Testament. However, anyone who has reached the point of becoming morally accountable for themselves has chosen not to glorify God and sinned against Him (violating His commands, Romans 3:23). Since God is a holy God who cannot be in fellowship with sin, your sin has separated you from God and set you on a path to experience eternal separation from God in the fires of Hell (Romans 6:23; Revelation 21:8). This was a major problem – and no one but God could solve it for you!

**Jesus Christ lived in Heaven.** It is amazing to think about Jesus (the Son) *before* He came to this earth. In fact, the Scriptures are clear that He was in Heaven and directly involved in creating all things (John 1:1-3)! This will better prepare you to appreciate the sacrifice He made

in coming to this earth – as it involved leaving all those things in Heaven (2 Corinthians 8:9)! And, He did it all knowing the sacrifice He would make for us!

**The Father sent the Son to the earth.** We must consider the Father's love in all of this. Read John 3:16. Ask yourself which involves the greater love: The love of the Son who came and went through the suffering and death or the love of the Father who watched His Son suffer and die? Of course, it is no competition so as to try and debate the answer. Rather, it is an exercise to better appreciate the great love for you that it took on the part of our Heavenly Father to watch His only Son go through all the things He endured – and not do what was in His power to stop it all!

**Jesus took on human flesh.** It was essential for your salvation and mine that Jesus leave Heaven, come to this earth, and take on human flesh. So, Jesus was God living as a man (Matthew 1:23)! Jesus (who is God) taking on flesh in this way was a true demonstration of humility and service (Philippians 2:5-8). For, He took on this form that is lower than the angels for a short time so that He could experience temptation and death – and provide a way for you to escape each one (Hebrews 2:9, 16-18; Hebrews 4:14-16).

**Jesus willingly suffered and died.** The fullness of God (Divinity) continued to dwell in Jesus's body (Colossians 2:9). What this should help you understand is that everything Jesus went through was directly due to the choices He made; not because He could not help it! So, as you read about Jesus suffering through temptation, or being blasphemed and ridiculed, or being spat on, or being falsely accused, or being arrested, or being beaten or flogged, or being crucified and dying – it was all because He chose to go through these things! For, when Jesus was arrested, He made it clear that He had the power to stop it all from happening if He had chosen to do so (Matthew 26:52-54). Yet, He chose to suffer and die.

**All this was done as a ransom sacrifice to save you.** Stop and really meditate on the points we have considered – and what they mean for your value. Surely, there is no one else who has ever existed in the form of God, who left Heaven, came to earth, and suffered in all these ways for you besides Jesus! Yet, Jesus did all these things because He and the Father love you – even though you sinned against God (Romans 5:6-11)! God knew that nothing else could redeem you from your empty and sinful way of life so you could have eternal life in Heaven except the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-21). This is how far God's love for you goes and the value He has given your life!

## **Conclusion**

To develop Godfidence and really see yourself as God sees you, you must know your value. And, to know your value, you must know your Creator and your Savior. The deeper you can appreciate each of these points, the deeper you will understand your value. For, your value is not based in the things of this world, but in the fact that God has created you in His image and has sacrificed His only Son to save you from your sins so you can live for Him on earth and live eternally with Him in Heaven!

## **Godfidence**

*Seeing Yourself As God Sees You*

### **Lesson 3: Know Your Value**

How can you know your value?

#### **1. Know Your Creator**

How does knowing if there is a God impact your value? How can you know if there is a God?

What makes God special?

How did God create the universe? Why did He do this?

How did God create the first man and woman? Did He create you?

What is special about the way God created you?



How does God provide for you?

## **2. Know Your Savior**

What is sin and why is it so serious?

Where was Jesus before He came to this earth and why is this significant?

What was the Father's role in Jesus's sacrifice? What does this teach you about the Father's love?

What is the significance of Jesus taking on human flesh?

What did Jesus endure on this earth? Was all of this forced on Jesus or did He go through it willingly?

Why was this sacrifice made? How does this impact your value?

# Godfidence

## Lesson 4: Know Your Purpose

The second step we will consider in developing Godfidence is to know your purpose. For, what you believe about your purpose is crucial to how you live and how you see yourself. Sadly, many fail to have a proper grasp of their purpose and there are many consequences that result. Ultimately, there are two ways for you to know your true purpose. These are to know your mission and to know your usefulness. Without these, you really cannot have a true grasp of your purpose. But, with a proper understanding of these, you will unlock the deepest sense of purpose possible!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn your true purpose in life by getting to know your mission and usefulness.

### **Know Your Mission**

**Knowing your “why” is crucial.** People demonstrate this principle whenever they travel by carefully considering the mission of the trip. If you don’t know this, you will never know how to prepare for the trip, what direction to travel, and how to make individual decisions along the way. Think of knowing your “why” in life like a map for your life. Rather than making many random and unguided decisions during your life, every decision will be considered relative to your overall mission (i.e. where to go to school, what career to pursue, who to marry, whether to be religious, how to practice your religion, how to raise a family, what to do with your free time, how to handle your money, etc.). There are ultimately three categories you can be in relative to knowing your mission.

**The undefined mission.** Some people live without a true destination for their lives and with no map to guide them. They simply do whatever they believe to be best at the time. While many celebrate this kind of “carefree” life, this life actually misses out on all that is truly worthwhile and true satisfaction a person can experience! Ultimately, this is a wasted life!

**The misguided mission.** Some people have carefully defined the destination for their lives and have a map they are using to guide them. Perhaps they have chosen to pursue earthly wealth, pleasures, relationships, careers, or such things as their mission. However, they have (perhaps unknowingly) selected a destination and map that will not actually produce true satisfaction and really live up to their true potential. Ultimately, this is a wasted life!

**The true mission.** While most people in this world undoubtedly have either undefined or misguided missions for their lives, it is possible to live with a proper understanding of your true mission! The book of Ecclesiastes is extremely helpful in this endeavor! In this book, the author (King Solomon) describes his search for meaning and satisfaction in his life. He was a man who

“had it all” from a physical perspective and had tried all sorts of physical things to find meaning and satisfaction (i.e. wealth, relationships, pleasures, knowledge, prestige, etc.). Yet, his conclusion was that it was all futility/vanity because it was all just temporary (Ecclesiastes 2:9-11). Then, he concluded that you should remember your Creator (even in your youth, Ecclesiastes 12:1) and that the true mission of your life should be to fear God and keep His commandments, knowing you will be judged by God (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)!

This mission for your life is echoed in other places throughout the Scriptures. Look carefully again at Psalm 19:1-4 (which we discussed in the previous lesson). What I notice from this passage is that things really are not about you and me. Instead, it is all about God! For, it is not your glory or mine that is proclaimed every minute of every day throughout this universe; but God’s glory! So, as you reflect on how great God (your Creator) is and what He has done to save you, it should come as no great surprise that God has created you for the purpose that you (who He created in His image) would seek to glorify Him in your life (1 Chronicles 16:23-30; Isaiah 43:7; Acts 17:24-27; Ephesians 1:5-6, 11-12; Ephesians 3:20-21)!

**Living on mission.** Although this mission is counter to everything this world teaches about what the focus of your life should be, remember the emptiness of all other missions. But, when you allow yourself to really reflect on the greatness of God and truly embrace Him as your Creator and Savior, you will be able to recognize this mission as greater than all others! While everything God has created glorifies Him through demonstrating how great He is (Psalm 19:1-4; Psalm 148:1-14), you can glorify God in an even greater way since you have been created in the image of God! So, God wants you to fully devote your life to glorifying, honoring, and praising Him by living according to His will rather than your own. When you do this, every decision you make, word you say, thought you think, and thing you do will be evaluated as to whether it brings glory to God by pleasing and honoring Him in them all (1 Corinthians 10:31)!

### **Know Your Usefulness**

**God wants to use you in His service.** When you really reflect on the magnitude of who God is and how much He has done for you, your mission of living to glorify Him can certainly seem like an overwhelming and impossible task! But, God assures you throughout the Scripture that He delights in the people He has created in His image using their lives to His glory by serving Him (Psalm 147:11; Psalm 149:4; Proverbs 12:22; Isaiah 62:1-5). In fact, what we see throughout Scripture are many examples of God using people who realized they were insufficient for the great things God wanted them to do (consider Moses in Exodus 3:9-12 and Gideon in Judges 6:14-16). Yet, God was able to use them to glorify Him – just as He can and desires to use you in His service (Romans 12:1-2). Although He does not need you to serve Him (Acts 17:25), this is precisely what He desires and is why He has created you and sacrificed Himself for you (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14). So, the implication is that God believes you are capable of glorifying Him through the service you can provide!

**How God views you.** It is interesting how people have a way of seeing so little of their potential for God whenever they look at their own lives. While God desires each person to be

humble and not think more highly of ourselves than we should think (Romans 12:3), He also wants us to see ourselves as He does so as to realize we are truly capable of glorifying Him through our service to Him. Consider a few of the ways God views those who live for Him.

First, God views you as being His temple who is appropriate to glorify and serve Him (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Second, God views you as a priest who has the opportunity and responsibility of bringing spiritual sacrifices to Him (1 Peter 2:4-5). Third, God views you as being His bride that He finds pleasure in (Ephesians 5:25-27). Fourth, God views you as being His ambassador He is using on this earth to represent Him and share His saving message with others (2 Corinthians 5:20). Fifth, God views you as part of His own body that can be used in a unique way to serve Him (1 Corinthians 12:27).

**You have a unique way to serve God.** Although God has given all of His people the same instructions to live by to serve Him (in the Bible), God knows that every person can serve Him in a unique way due to our unique circumstances, abilities, opportunities, relationships, etc. But, rather than this being viewed in a negative way, you should gain a greater appreciation of how this means God wants to use you! For, there is no one else on this earth who is able to serve and glorify God in the exact same way God can use you to do this! In fact, this is how God has designed His body (1 Corinthians 12:12-20; Ephesians 4:11-16).

**You must use what God has given you.** God wants and deserves more from you than just your mere existence. Rather, God has created you, blessed you with many things in your life, and sacrificed His Son for you so that you will use these things to His glory (Romans 12:1-8)! Notice that God wants you to think sensibly about how you can be used in His service – not to think more highly or lowly of yourself than you should think. Rather, He expects you to simply use whatever He has blessed you with in His service, to honor and glorify Him! If you do this, God will delight in and be pleased with you (Matthew 25:19-23).

**Failing to use what God has given you is a waste of your life.** Sadly, many fail to use what God has given them – either by misusing these things or by neglecting His work. Although God has left it up to you to decide how to use what He has blessed you with, He has also warned that He will not be pleased if you fail to put these things to their best use (Matthew 25:24-30)! In fact, God considers such a life to be evil, lazy, and worthless! For, it fails to put the precious gifts He has given to you to use in the only way that really matters.

## **Conclusion**

To develop Godfidence and really see yourself as God sees you, you must know your purpose. And, to know your purpose, you must know your mission and your usefulness. The deeper you can appreciate each of these points, the deeper you will understand your purpose. For, your purpose is not based in the things of this world, but in the fact that God has given you a mission to accomplish and sees you as being useful to accomplish that mission!

## **Godfidence**

*Seeing Yourself As God Sees You*

### **Lesson 4: Know Your Purpose**

How can you know your purpose?

#### **1. Know Your Mission**

How is knowing your “why” crucial?

What does an undefined mission look like?

What does a misguided mission look like?

What is your true mission in life?

How can you live according to this mission?

#### **2. Know Your Usefulness**

How does God delight in people using their lives in His service?

What are some ways God views those who live for Him?

How can God use you in a unique way to serve Him?

What does God expect you to do with what He has given you?

What is the result of failing to use what God has given you?

# Godfidence

## Lesson 5: Know Your Goal

The third step we will consider in developing Godfidence is to know your goal. For, where you are striving to go and what you are hoping to achieve in your life is crucial to how you live and how you see yourself. Sadly, many fail to have the proper grasp of a goal that actually is worth pursuing. Ultimately, there are two ways for you to know your true goal. These are to know your definition of success and to know your standard. Without these, you really cannot have a true grasp of your goal. But, with a proper understanding of these, you will unlock the deepest sense of pursuing your goal possible!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn your true goal by getting to know your definition of success and standard.

### **Know Your Definition Of Success**

**A wasted life is one that is focused on earthly things.** We all probably have pictures of what a wasted life looks like, as well as what it does not look like. Unfortunately, we often limit our definitions to earthly measures of success (i.e. family, job, talents, philanthropy, etc.). However, God defines a wasted life as one that focuses on sin, self, and earthly things (1 Peter 1:18-19; 4:3). A good example of this can be found in Luke 12:16-21 in a parable Jesus told to some people who were greedy and put their focus on earthly things. Notice how many times the man in the parable speaks about himself, his wealth, and his big plans! While many people would view such a person as being extremely successful, everything that made him “successful” from an earthly perspective was taken away from him when he died and left to another. Therefore, if what makes you successful can be taken from you, you are wasting your life!

**Anything that leads to Hell cannot be a success.** There a major problem with your definition of success if your way of life results in eternal punishment in Hell! For example, Galatians 5:19-21 gives a list of sinful things people do whenever they are focused on living to please their physical desires. But, the result of such things (and anything similar) is missing out on the kingdom of Heaven and experiencing eternal punishment in Hell (Matthew 25:41, 46; Romans 2:8-9). This place is described in Mark 9:43-48. In it, you should notice both the terrible place of punishment it really is plus the fact that nothing is worth doing or keeping if it will result in you going there! Certainly, any kind of life that results in an eternity of punishment by God for the choices you have made cannot possibly be viewed as anything other than a complete waste and utter failure!

**If you miss Heaven, you miss it all.** God, through Jesus Christ, has given you the opportunity to be saved from the consequences of your sins and have eternal life in Heaven rather than experience eternal punishment in Hell (Romans 6:23). Certainly, then, if you take this

opportunity and throw it away by continuing to live for earthly things that result in eternal punishment, you cannot possibly view your life as being successful (Matthew 16:26-27). A good example of this can be found in Matthew 19:16-22 regarding a rich man (although he desired eternal life) chose His riches above Jesus and went away grieving. So, even though most people would have thought this man was very successful, he missed out on the only thing that really matters! In the same way, if you miss Heaven, you really will have missed it all!

**Heaven is worth all the sacrifice of living for God.** Living for Jesus so as to experience eternal life in Heaven means that you will need to sacrifice many things that appeal to you on this earth and that seem to be things that would make your life successful (Matthew 16:24-25). However, Jesus assures you that these sacrifices will truly be worth it and will result in the greatest success imaginable (Matthew 16:26-27)! For example, as the apostle Paul considered the sacrifices he made and the suffering he experienced for the sake of Jesus, he did not have any regrets. In fact, he saw his sacrifices and sufferings as being a small thing in view of the value gained through following Christ (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Philippians 3:7-11). In the same way, you must know that following Jesus and having Heaven as your eternal home is worth infinitely more than anything this life has to offer and is the true measure of success!

**Leaving a legacy of faith is the only one that will last.** Some people define success based on what they leave behind once they are gone (their legacy). However, recognize that every earthly legacy is only temporary. Money gets spent, possessions wear out, property will not last, memories fade, etc. In fact, as Solomon thought about these types of legacies, it was a burden to him (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23). In contrast with such physically focused legacies that don't last, the legacy of faith in Jesus is one that continues to impact people well after you are gone and will even make an eternal difference for those you help follow the Lord (Hebrews 11:4; Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:2)! By serving Jesus faithfully, you can help others do the same – who can then help others, who will help others, etc. Certainly, no other legacy is greater than this one!

### **Know Your Standard**

**If Heaven is your goal, there is only one Way.** If Heaven is truly your goal, you must carefully evaluate the map for how to get there. For, the reality is that there are ultimately only two paths you can walk on during your earthly life (Matthew 7:13-14) – and only one of them leads to Heaven! Although the road that leads through the narrow gate into Heaven is difficult, Jesus shows us the way. In fact, Jesus is the Way (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Not only has Jesus paved the road to Heaven with His blood, but He has also revealed the truth you must follow in order to get there!

**You must know where to find the truth.** People believe many different things as being “truth.” In fact, many people do not believe “Truth” even exists. Instead, they believe that “truth” is whatever a person chooses to believe. As a result, these live according to whatever they believe suits them best. Yet, this will not get anyone to Heaven! For, God plainly teaches that “Truth” does exist and has been made known through Jesus (John 6:63, 68; 8:31-32)! This truth is



revealed through the words written in the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are the only words that will lead us to salvation in Heaven (Romans 1:16; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

**You must buy the truth.** Once you recognize that absolute truth exists that can lead you to Heaven, you must respond properly to it. This starts with knowing and buying the truth (John 8:31-32; Proverbs 23:23). To do this, you must not just hear the message of truth God has spoken. Rather, you must believe that whatever He says really is the truth – no matter what you have been taught, no matter how you have lived, no matter what you hear other people say, no matter how counter-cultural it is, etc.! And, you must have such confidence that whatever God says is true that you will buy anything and everything He says no matter how much it costs you – even if it costs you relationships, persecutions, sacrifices, etc. (Matthew 13:44-46)! So, you must give yourself to searching the Scriptures to find out the truth and allowing the truth God reveals to be the ultimate authority in your life!

**You must not sell the truth.** It is not just that you must believe the truth so as to buy it at one point in your life. Rather, you must then refuse to sell it for anything or anybody (Proverbs 23:23)! So, even when buying the truth is difficult and results in great hardships for your life, you must not change the truth to fit whatever suits you better (Galatians 1:6-9). For example, the rich man in Matthew 19:16-22 did this very thing. He bought much of the truth. However, he did not like the truth about selling his possessions – and he sold that truth. As a result, he will miss out on Heaven (unless he changed at some point during his life). Sadly, there are many who will sell God's inconvenient truths for things that fit their beliefs, opinions, desires, and lifestyles better and are like those Paul warned about in 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

**You must follow the truth.** The truth cannot be just a mental exercise of gaining the right knowledge. Instead, two passages give images of the person who gains the right knowledge of truth from God and then fails to act in obedience to it. The first is in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus compares such a one to a person who builds a house on sand and then collapses (in contrast with one built on the rock and survives). The second is in James 1:22-25. James compares such a one to a person who looks at himself in a mirror and does nothing to fix the problems he/she sees in the mirror. So, you must buy the truth and not sell it so completely that you let the truth completely direct how you live in every respect!

## **Conclusion**

To develop Godfidence and really see yourself as God sees you, you must know your goal. And, to know your goal, you must know your definition of success and your standard. The deeper you can appreciate each of these points, the deeper you will understand your goal. For, your goal is not based on the things of this world, but in the fact that God has given you something much greater that is waiting for you and has given you a standard to use to navigate you in the right direction!

## **Godfidence**

*Seeing Yourself As God Sees You*

### **Lesson 5: Know Your Goal**

How can you know your goal?

#### **1. Know Your Definition Of Success**

What does a wasted life look like?

Can anything that leads to Hell be considered a successful life? Why or why not?

How successful are you really if you miss out on Heaven?

How much sacrifice is worth making in order to go to Heaven?

How is a legacy of faith the only kind of legacy that will last?

## **2. Know Your Standard**

How do you get to Heaven?

Where do you find the truth?

What must you do whenever you hear the truth?

What must you refuse to do with the truth?

Why is it essential to put the truth into action in your life?

# Godfidence

## Lesson 6: Living With Godfidence

Godfidence is not just something that you develop at one time and never have to be concerned with again. Rather, it is something that you must carefully develop, protect, and then use throughout your life! For, there will be continual challenges to convince you to view and conduct yourself in ways that go against this God-centered view of who you are. This results in you failing to be as useful in God's service as you can be. However, if you are diligent in developing, protecting, and using Godfidence, you will allow God to use your life in ways that will glorify Him to your greatest potential!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn that your Godfidence will be challenged, how to respond to these attacks, and how to present your living sacrifice to God.

### **Your Godfidence Will Be Challenged**

**Satan is your adversary.** People often treat what Satan does as if he is trying to help them and give them something that is good for them (i.e. pleasure, wealth, relationships, ease of living, etc.). But, the Scriptures regularly warn that Satan is your enemy who is trying to destroy you (1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44; Ephesians 6:16; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). One way he is successful is by distorting how people view themselves.

**Satan wants you to focus on physical things.** The war for your soul comes down to the basic battle between physical and spiritual things. As we have seen earlier in this study, your perspective of who you are should not be focused on physical things that are temporary. Rather, it must be focused on spiritual things that last (Romans 8:5-8)! The challenge as you live on this earth is to keep this perspective rather than getting caught up in all the physical things that are going on around you and appeal to your physical desires. For this reason, you must come to view yourself as a pilgrim (temporary resident/exile on this earth) and abstain from the sinful desires Satan is using to wage this war against your soul (1 Peter 2:11-12).

**Examples of Satan working to distort focus.** Satan is good at what he does, though what he does is not good. Namely, Satan is a deceiver and manipulator who does not want you (or anyone) to see things for what they really are. For example, when Satan tempted Eve, he challenged what God had told her and convinced her that God was trying to keep them from something that would be beneficial for them (Genesis 3:1-6). Or, when Satan was allowed to harm Job, he did so to try and prove that Job only served God because of the ways God had blessed him (Job 1:8-12; Job 2:9-10). Or, when Satan tempted Jesus, he challenged Jesus to prove who He was by doing things contrary to the will of God (Matthew 4:3, 5-6). Today, Satan continues working in these ways today to distort the way you view yourself and your focus.

## Responding To Satan's Attacks

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13.** Although defeating Satan's attacks can seem like an impossible task, the Scriptures routinely demonstrate that it is actually quite possible! One key to maintain a proper view of yourself is to be careful when you think you are standing. For, there have been many people who have once developed the proper view of themselves and later fell. Sometimes Satan is successful in changing how people view themselves in one quick series of events. Other times, Satan is successful after an extended period of deceiving people. Therefore, you must always stay alert to the ways in which Satan is working!

Then, God assures you that the ways in which you are tempted are the same ways other people are tempted. So, while the specific circumstances vary from person to person, the essence of the temptations are the same. Yet, because God is faithful (trustworthy), you can be fully confident that there is always a way to do what is right – and that God knows the temptation is not more than you can handle through the strength He provides!

**1 Peter 5:8-9.** You must take God's instructions concerning how you can overcome Satan's attacks in this passage. This starts with observing what God teaches concerning your mindset. First, you must be sober-minded to keep your mind properly prepared and free from anything that would impair your ability to recognize Satan's deceptions. Second, you must be alert to stay ready and watchful for any way that he may attack you at any time.

Next, notice what God teaches about the actions you must take. First, you must resist Satan by rejecting any of the advances Satan tries to make against you, recognizing anything he is trying to convince you of is not in the best interest for your soul (James 4:7). Second, you must stand firm in the faith in God and the faith God has revealed in the gospel so as to never compromise it. Third, you must recognize you are not alone in this fight as you have brothers and sisters in Christ who are engaged in the same spiritual battles you are fighting against Satan and can lean on them for support and encouragement!

**Ephesians 6:10-18.** This passage further emphasizes that we can overcome Satan, as we have been given armor from God to use in the fight against Satan! And, notice the promise made multiple times in this passage that putting on this armor will enable you to stand and withstand the attacks of Satan!

If you want the impact of this armor in your life, you must carefully put on and use each piece of the armor in your daily life. So, you must use truth to answer Satan's lies and manipulations. You must have such a commitment to what God says is right that anything contrary to it will not be allowed to work in your life. You must let God's good news of salvation through Jesus work to produce peace in you that cannot be shaken. You must use faith in God, in Jesus, and in His word as a first line of defense against Satan's attacks. You must use the hope of eternal salvation in Heaven to anchor you in serving God. You must use God's word to fend off attacks from Satan and advance the cause of His kingdom. And, you must use prayer as a way to petition God for help and wisdom during the spiritual war you fight.

## Present Your Living Sacrifice

**Romans 12:1-2.** Living with Godfidence doesn't just involve defending yourself against Satan's attacks. Rather, it also involves actively putting your God-centered view of yourself to work so that you please God. This passage in Romans will help you accomplish this.

**Be motivated by the mercies of God.** Those who are focused on physical things to define their lives will *never* be able to submit their lives fully to God and live to please Him (Romans 8:7). For, these will lack the motivation that is necessary to make the sacrifices God requires. Yet, as you have come to know both your Creator and your Savior, and recognized your own spiritual brokenness in the process, you can now use the mercy God has shown to motivate your service to Him. This should cause you to look beyond your own physical desires in how you conduct your life!

**Make a living, holy, and pleasing sacrifice.** Notice these words that characterize how you will respond to God if you truly understand the sacrifice He has made for you. First notice, though, that you must make a sacrifice. Therefore, your Godfidence is expected to result in something being surrendered/sacrificed to the Lord. But, this sacrifice is not just up to you to define however you desire. Rather, consider how God has defined it.

God says your sacrifice must be a living one. Therefore, it is not a one-time sacrifice (as an animal or grain sacrifice that could only be used once). Instead, your entire life (everything about it and for as long as you live) is to be presented to God and is used in His service (Romans 6:12-13; 1 Peter 2:4-5). Then, God says your living sacrifice must be holy and pleasing to Him. So, you must carefully search the Scriptures and carry out God's will in your own life, letting the authority of Jesus Christ determine your character, thoughts, speech, conduct, religious service, etc. (Colossians 3:17).

**Be transformed, not conformed.** Satan is working hard so that you will view yourself in the same physically focused ways as the rest of the world. So, it is critical that you continue to embrace the truths we have established in this series and see yourself as God sees you. If you will do this, you will be transformed and live for God rather than being shaped by the same sinful molds that shape the rest of this world – and be okay with sticking out from the rest of the world like light shining in a world that is full of darkness, even if others hate you for it (Matthew 5:14-16; John 3:19-21)!

## Conclusion

Are you living with Godfidence? That is, do you stay ready for the challenges Satan will throw your way, respond to these challenges appropriately, and present yourself to God as a living sacrifice? Make no mistake about it: God can use you in His service to accomplish wonderful things if you will let Him. But, you must develop and live with Godfidence so that you will truly see yourself in the same wonderful way God sees you!

## **Godfidence**

*Seeing Yourself As God Sees You*

### **Lesson 6: Living With Godfidence**

How must Godfidence be developed, protected, and then used throughout your life?

#### **1. Your Godfidence Will Be Challenged**

How is Satan your adversary?

What is Satan trying to get you to focus on?

Give some examples of Satan working to distort the focus of people in the Bible.

#### **2. Responding To Satan's Attacks**

How does 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 help you learn to respond to Satan's attacks?

How does 1 Peter 5:8-9 help you learn to respond to Satan's attacks?

How does Ephesians 6:10-18 help you learn to respond to Satan's attacks?

### **3. Present Your Living Sacrifice**

How does living with Godfidence involve more than just protecting yourself against Satan's attacks?

What should motivate your sacrifice?

How does God describe the sacrifice He wants you to make?

What does it mean for you to be transformed rather than conformed?