

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!

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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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.