Self Confidence

Have you ever noticed that the world in which we live demands that we have confidence… in something? It takes confidence just to get out of bed in the mornings sometimes, doesn't it? The TV tells us day and night to have confidence in this "thing" or that "thing"… and that those "things" will change our lives… and make them what we have always wanted them to be… perfect, no problems… just pure bliss.

"Bowflex" the revolutionary new workout machine will change your life, and give you the body image that you always wanted to have… you can have confidence in your deodorant… so raise your hand if you're "Sure". "Jenny Craig" will help you to learn to take control of your life… for just $29.95 a month plus the food you must buy to join the program.

In the business world we are told we must have the self-confidence to make the tough choices… and when we don't make the right choices… people may whisper that our confidence is shaken… that we don't believe in ourselves. You are told that you must believe in yourself in order to be successful, and that a night with Tony Robbins and his "Walk of Fire" can assist you… with figuring out how to unleash the power within yourself… and you are also told how Tony can help you to "Design the Life You Have Always Wanted". Sounds nice doesn't it… it sounds good… but are they… all those who are telling us these things… are they right?

If you view that question from a godly perspective then you know the answer to that already… of course, they are wrong. Mankind is always looking to unleash his own power… which is about as much power… as the force expended… from the expulsion of the air from under your shoe… when you take a step. Have you ever noticed that "*smushing*" sound coming from the carpet?

Many may think that they have power… but what do they really have? Frankly, the only thing that they have… is the current moment of their existence. They call their existence… *their* life and even then… they are getting it wrong… who told them it was *their* life anyway? The world told them that… and the world got the idea from the father of lies. Thinking that we have power in and of ourselves is one of the cleverest ways that anyone can imagine of keeping us from the only source of real power in the universe that we *know* exists… and that is God.

Our lives are not ours… they belong to God whether we choose to acknowledge that or not… and yes… that is a power that we do have… the power to choose. But make no mistake we are all living on borrowed time… no matter what our physical age is. We will all have to give an account for the lives that we have been given… and the One who does the accounting knows us all better than we do ourselves.

In **Ezekiel 18:4**, we are told this by the Lord… "**Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine…"** and during the ministry of Jesus on the earth we see that He told us this in **John 5:26**… **"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself…"** These passages tell us what Tony Robbins and Jenny Craig do not… the truth. The truth is that life is from God, that our souls… what we *really* are… belong to God. These passages tell us that life, as God our Creator defines it… is in the Father and the Son… and that it simply does not exist anywhere else.

Jesus tells us again in **John 15:5**… **"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."** Christ is the vine, which we are dependent upon for life, and apart from Him we "**can do nothing"**… or to put it another way… anything we do apart from Him *is* nothing. Have you ever thought about life like that?

Self-confidence is something that we mentioned earlier in this lesson… when I think of that

term… it makes me want to laugh at the foolishness of the very thought. I don't know about you… but every time I have ever tried to do anything through confidence in myself… it has turned out to be a disaster… which is eventually what all of the lives lived that way turn out to be… disasters of eternal proportions.

In the Book of **Judges**, in chapters 7 and 8, we are told of a man named Gideon who led the Israelites to victory over the armies of the kings of Midian. In the text we are told that the Israelites under Gideon numbered some 32,000 men … and that God made Gideon go through a selection process to thin out the army… until only three hundred men remained… and with these men by the Lord's power, Gideon killed the opposing armies and their kings. The opposing army numbered over 130,000 men. That was an amazing victory… and God made it happen that way for a reason… He wanted the Israelites to see that their army did not deliver them from the armies of Midian… He did that… and He wanted them to know it… and to acknowledge it.

What does this say to us today? God teaches us this lesson from the text about Gideon… it does not matter what the odds are in life… God can deliver and you cannot. So much for the value of *self*-confidence… self-confidence is not something we should seek or embrace… it is something that we should flee from.

The Christian's life is about complete submission to God… and confidence in Him and Him alone. Our lives are nothing without Him… we exist at His pleasure… at His mercy… and every good thing we have… in our lives comes from Him. He is in control and we are not.

Paul tells us this in **Philippians 3:3 … "rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh…"** The apostle tells us to have no confidence in the flesh… meaning ourselves, but we can have confidence in Christ… who came and died on the cross that we might have confidence in something again… our God and His promises… the promises that He manifested to all men through His Son. We can have confidence in that… and nothing in the world can take that confidence away from you… if you hold on to it. Nothing can shake it from your grasp… because God gives us the strength to hold on to those promises… if we will but submit our lives to His will and keep our confidence in Him. Paul said in **Philippians 4:13… "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."** And again our Lord tells us, that apart from Him we "**can do nothing**". We need to do something with our lives… we need to give them to the Lord and let Him make *something* out of the *nothing* that we bring.

You can only have that *something* if you are in "in Christ". You are put into Christ by believing and confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God… repenting of your sins and then submitting to the command to be baptized… immersed in water….wherein your sins are washed away and you become a child of God. If you need to do that now… if you would make something of yourself… won't you do that now?

Likewise if you are a child of God who has become *self* reliant… instead of relying on God to redesign your life… won't you change that? God offers us all *something* for our *nothing*… take it now while it is offered. Your life is not predictable enough to pass on this.