

How to Have True Confidence

1 John 1:1-10

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

(1-4) Embrace God's Life

“The Father sent the Son because of how he so loved him (and wanted that love to be shared and enjoyed), and the Son went because he so loved his father (and wanted that love to be shared and enjoyed). The mission comes from the overflow of love, from the uncontainable enjoyment of the fellowship.

So it is with the Father and the Son; so it is with us. The Spirit catches us up to share their pleasure, and it is that delight in them that fuels us to want to make them known. The Spirit-caused enjoyment of the fellowship, the increasing love for the Father and the Son: it turns us to share their outgoing love for the world. We become like what we worship”
Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*

(5-10) Walk in God's Light

Shrek: Ogres are like onions.

Donkey: They stink?

Shrek: Yes. No.

Donkey: Oh, they make you cry.

Shrek: No.

Donkey: Oh, you leave 'em out in the sun, they get all brown, start sproutin' little white hairs.

Shrek: No. Layers. Onions have layers. Ogres have layers. Onions have layers. You get it? We both have layers.

Donkey: Oh, you both have layers. Oh. You know, not everybody likes onions.

Let me learn by paradox

that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high,
that the broken heart is the healed heart,
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,
that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision.

-The Valley of Vision

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) What recently has shaken or tested your confidence in the Lord?
- 2) How does God's loving and giving nature give us confidence?
- 3) What "layer" of your heart is the Lord revealing right now? What does confession and repentance look like for you?
- 4) Why can we say, "The way down is the way up"?