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## LOSING ALL CONFIDENCE GAINING ALL POWER!

The dictionary defines "confidence" as having: (1) Full Trust or (2) Full Assurance. Having confidence can bring you both success and failure. Having confidence can bring you both victory and defeat. Having confidence can bring you life, and your confidence can bring you death! There is an interesting thing about the fruit of confidence. "True confidence" will almost always result in what man views as success. However, what we view as success and what GOD views as success are two totally different things. One lies in darkness disguised as light, while the other is light. The light of GOD!

Your writer entered his professional career while in his mid twenties, with an unshakable confidence in his own ability to succeed in the business and social world. This confidence did not come from higher education nor from any previous success, such as athletics. I was at best an average student who was basically lazy and overweight. My confidence in my ability started when I began to study public speaking and debate. That confidence grew into a powerful force that could amass millions and millions of dollars in wealth and also influence the power structure. That confidence led to acceptance into the "right" social circles where the "movers and shakers" gathered. That same confidence led to being included with those who traveled in private corporate jets and limousines, rubbed elbows with the rich and famous both in the political arena as well as the entertainment industry. At the height of what appeared to be success there were marks of achievement in every area of life including the church. There was a time when five cars filled the driveway with two drivers to drive them. There were airplanes, motor homes and houseboats. There were not one or two vacation homes but six altogether. Be assured that there were many railroads that were longer than mine but I was confident that my tracks were as wide as anybody's and I craved the opportunity to match my skills against another's. Especially in the Banking Industry. I got a rush out of putting a deal together that others said couldn't be done, and then bring it to reality. I still remember sitting in my study while visiting with a good friend and making the statement that I was so confident of my ability in my part of the business world that I felt it impossible that I could fail. What pride! What arrogance! What an absolute stinking stench before a Holy God!

*"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall". (Proverbs 16:18)*

*"----Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate." (Proverbs 8:13)*

The confidence that I had that led to success and acceptance not only in the world but also in the church, was in fact a formula for death and destruction. While appearing to be light, it was in fact shades of outer darkness. WHAT WE SEE AS CONFIDENCE IS ALSO A REFLECTION OF PRIDE. I believe there are two evil spirits that are as real as you and me and they are twins. One is known as pride, the other as confidence! Look at the definition of pride:

1. A high opinion of one's worth. 2. Self respect 3. That which one is proud of.

How can anyone be confident in one's "own" ability and not be a prime candidate for a spirit of pride? I do not believe they can. How can anyone who knows GOD and understands His holiness, stand before Him being filled with "self" respect? The world tells us to "believe in ourselves" that we may succeed in life. FATHER tells us to believe in "only Him" as the source of every good thing in life.

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:17)*

I thank GOD that some twelve or thirteen years ago He chose to wake me up to His truth and call me out of the world and into His kingdom of light. If you are a child of GOD, you too are called out!

"Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord," - - - (2 Corinthians 6:17)

Going through a period of separation is not a pleasant thing. Our flesh wants to hang on to the world! We want to hang on to our money! We want to hang on to our leisure life style! We want to hang on to our creature comforts! We want to hang on to our social standing! We want to hang on to our self respect, our self worth and YES WE EVEN WANT TO HANG ON TO OUR PRIDE!!! All of this hanging on is a desperate attempt of our flesh to hang on to its' fallen state and if left alone, you may be assured that we would eventually sink into the very depths of outer darkness. That is the very nature of our flesh and we need to come face to face with this fact!

For the past dozen or so years as I have attempted to follow Him, I have had nothing but one business problem after another. And I am talking about major problems that have the potential to destroy thirty plus years of work. Many have said to me, "your problems are nothing more than an attack of the enemy. Take authority over him through Father's word and claim your victory. After all you are promised great prosperity in Him." Sounds good, sounds so right and so promising. Many times over the years I have taken great comfort in an occasional word of prophecy that promised me great victory within a set period of time. These words have come from several men who seem to be mature in Him and some who are in full time ministry. All of these words to date have failed to come to pass. Why? There may be many reasons, one being that they spoke from the flesh and not the Spirit. They were well intentioned, but in their zeal they failed to be still enough to hear what the Spirit of God was saying. Actually FATHER has allowed these problems to bring blessing upon me and He will do the same for you!

My business problems have brought me to the point where I fully realize that I have no ability, except in HIM! I have a full understanding of Father's definition of prosperity and it differs considerably from ours. I have received great revelation of certain spiritual precepts that cannot be broken without suffering. Such as becoming surety for another's debt, (See Proverbs 11:15) or becoming unequally yoked with one who is not "like minded" in Christ. (See 2 Corinthians 6:14) Perhaps my greatest blessing during these times is being brought to the place where I HAVE LOST ALL CONFIDENCE IN MY ABILITY TO SUCCEED IN THE BUSINESS WORLD! I have absolutely no confidence in my ability to make any decision that will result in making money or solving my problems. This, after thirty

years of great prosperity would seem to the world to be a major defeat, but it is anything but defeat. **THANKS BE TO GOD THIS IS A VICTORY BEYOND ANYTHING THAT I COULD ASK FOR! FINALLY I AM IN A POSITION WHERE HE CAN MOVE IN ALL OF HIS POWER AND RECEIVE ALL OF THE GLORY WITH NONE FALLING TO ME! PRAISE GOD, SWEET JESUS, THIS IS EXCITING!**

**But there is more!**

Like many of you, I have been blessed with a very real and very supernatural spiritual rebirth. Back in 1986 after receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I was filled with a craving for FATHER'S word. I mean I devoured the Word of God - over and over and over again. I soaked in It, stood on It, proclaimed It as perfect down to the last jot and tittle! That same craving is still in me and if anything it has gotten more intense. May FATHER never withdraw this blessing from me and I pray that you receive that same craving if you do not have it.

Now as time has gone by my knowledge and understanding has increased. My spiritual hearing increased and my faith was on the rise. (See Romans 10:17) I have seen a few miracles, prayer answered, lots of spiritual manifestations and I have seen some of the fruit of my walk with Him. As the years have gone by there have been opportunities to share my testimony, to minister to the sick, the lost and the hurting. There have even been opportunities to preach. All of this along with my knowledge of FATHER'S word led me to where I had great confidence in my spiritual ability.

**Uh Oh!**

I should have seen my error, but I didn't. In my well intentioned zeal, along with my knowledge of the Word, not to mention my personal confidence, I stepped into the snare of presumption. (See Psalm 19:12 & 13) Without realizing it, my confidence was far too often in me. In my knowledge of His word, in my ability to pray or to fast, in my ability to speak, teach or write. While in truth, I had and now have **NO ABILITY WHATSOEVER**, except as He personally moves through me. **I AM AND YOU ARE HELPLESS!!** This truth was very suddenly and very firmly brought home to me some three weeks ago.

After having a small growth removed from just inside my hair line on the right side of my face, the pathology report declared that it was a "T" cell Lymphoma which is rare and can be anywhere in the body and is normally aggressive in its nature. This was a surprise not only to me but also to my doctor. All of a sudden, I was thrown into a world of Oncologists, cat-scans and bone marrow tests. I was introduced to words like chemotherapy and radiation and of course I was immediately reminded, by the enemy, of all those whom I had known that were killed by similar disease. How did I react? This one who had twelve years of Word study in him, had digested hundreds of books and tapes. One who had been to conferences, prayer meeting after prayer meeting and church service after church service. This one who had seen GOD answer prayer and heal. How did I react being full of my confidence in Him?

**I WAS SHOCKED, FILLED WITH FEAR, BROKE OUT IN A COLD SWEAT AND I JUST CRIED.**

All of a sudden I was overwhelmed with the awesome reality of death and actually coming face to face with our GOD. Hebrews 10:11 was GOD'S word to me on that Tuesday afternoon in the privacy of my office.

***“IT IS A FEARFUL THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD”***

I was spiritually numb for several days. All of the faith that I preached escaped me as a bird in flight. I became quiet and withdrawn as I realized that this journey was one that we all must walk alone. I was ashamed of myself as I realized how little miracle working faith was actually in my heart. It was in my head, but my heart seemed to be empty. Glory be to GOD, He had me right where He wanted me. I get excited just writing about it! Praise GOD!!

At my lowest point, I could hear a faint cry in my soul -"Hold On" - "Hold On" just "Hold On". I also had an indescribable feeling of reaching out to GOD - My being felt that it needed only to get to FATHER to touch Him and all would be OK. I resigned myself to a deeper surrender than I thought possible - even to death. Then I came to a lonely place, where there are no brothers and sisters, no pastors, no family and absolutely no confidence in my or anyone else's spiritual ability. I have never known such a feeling of helplessness and spiritual immaturity. It was in this place that I came to realize that we, you as well, have absolutely no power - we are naked and bare before a holy GOD. We can memorize all 66 books of FATHER'S word and use all of the gifts of the Spirit. We can preach and teach truth and do so using our quick wit or fleshly appeal, but you can be absolutely assured that GOD IS NOT IMPRESSED! HE IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH YOUR MINISTRY, YOUR WORKS, YOUR ZEAL, YOUR HOLINESS, YOUR VISION, YOUR BUSYNESS FOR HIM - NO! If you believe otherwise you need to stop right here - right now and read Matthew 7:21-23!

I am now fully persuaded that we are in reality, absolutely helpless except in Him. I am further persuaded that the only thing that FATHER wants from us is total abandonment. His full blessing will only come as there is full surrender, the likes of which few of us have experienced nor have we been willing to experience! This is to our shame and to our loss.

In relation to the wholeness of GOD, we do not have a clue and it is time to face this truth! If GOD does not save, there will be no salvation - If GOD does not restore, there will be no restoration - If GOD does not deliver, there will be no deliverance - If GOD does not heal, there will be no healing and if GOD does not reveal, there will be no revelation! All of the blessings of GOD are in HIM - through HIM and for HIM! WE ARE NOTHING, HE IS EVERYTHING! LIFE HAS NO MEANING EXCEPT IN JESUS! FATHER will not honor our presumption, our irreverence, our overly familiar attitude, our lack of humility and our religious rebellion! He loves us too much to do so. He is speaking to you right now - In the name of JESUS, listen, listen - your time grows short!

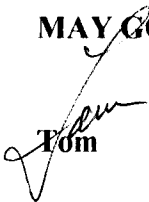
My brothers and sisters why do you think there is so much defeat, so much loss in the church today? Why? Why is there so little power in relation to what is available? Listen to me, WE HAVE MISSED GOD! GOD has not changed. Our GOD is not asleep, on vacation, out to dinner or involved elsewhere.

**NO! We have missed Him, missed His voice and failed to respond in accordance with His perfect will for us. MOST OF US ARE LIVING IN AND MINISTERING IN HIS PERMISSIVE WILL AND NOT HIS PERFECT WILL. WAKE UP SAINTS!!**

**I must conclude, but before I do please allow me to give a praise report on the faithfulness of FATHER. While I was low, spiritually weak and helpless, the Spirit of God began to arouse my family. He began to arouse several brothers and sisters that walk with me on this divine journey. The word of God began to stir, the love of JESUS began to flow and the POWER OF GOD EXPLODED INTO THE SITUATION! I believe FATHER said; "Enough now for the present time. My son has received My correction and My truth." At His Word all darkness receded and His healing virtue flooded my being. Every test run including the bone marrow test was negative - clean - clear. There was no sign of disease anywhere! All praise, honor and glory be unto HIM!!**

**Has FATHER spared me or has He spared you in this hour because of our dedication, our service, our salvation, our knowledge of His word, our faithfulness, our spiritual maturity? NO - none of these things have healed your writer - none! I am healed because of a grace and love that I do not understand nor do I deserve.**

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU**

  
Tom