



Brand New This We Know

#npbrandnew

Week 3

3 of 4

February 16, 2020

Bottom Line: Confidence is life changing.

Icebreaker: If you had to be on America's Got Talent, what talent would you be most confident to display? Why?

Key Verse: *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...* Philippians 3:10 NIV

Before Paul came to know Jesus Christ and receive a new heart, he had no troubled conscience, no inner conflict. He didn't see anything wrong with himself. He compared very favorably with those around him. In fact, he was better than most. His resume was outstanding.

But when he began a new relationship with Christ, he got a new heart. He rejected the things he once thought were valuable and gave him confidence. Before, Paul had confidence in his birth, following all the outward marks of religion, his nationality and family background, his racial purity, his sincerity, his personal achievements, his religious purity, and his sincere work. He was so confident in the discipline of the life he led in legalistic righteousness that he said he was "faultless." His ledger was lined up with things he hoped would give him confidence for salvation.

But when Paul met Christ, he realized instantly that everything he had been accumulating fell short of God's standards. It was all self-righteousness, not the real deal. Jesus said, "Drop it all and follow me." Paul said yes. He counted everything else loss in order to know Christ. We are just like him. We can't have confidence in anything we have done for ourselves. We have a new source of confidence—everything Christ has done for us. We have new confidence before OTHERS (2 Corinthians 2:10) and before GOD (Ephesians 3:12).

When you know you are fully loved and fully accepted, it breeds confidence. Like Paul, you now have confidence to have a NEW AMBITION. Your ultimate goal is to know Christ in an exciting, exhilarating, life-giving union. The power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead lives in us and gives us the power to live like Jesus and to minister to others. Your new heart gives you new confidence to pursue a new ambition, and to pursue the goal of being Christlike for your entire life.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

What are the things that typically give people confidence? Before Christ, what did you look to for the measure of confidence you need?

Self-righteousness is so damning because it is so deceptive. How so?

Self-righteousness is the righteousness of self-control, the righteousness of external morality, the righteousness of religious ritual and ceremony, the righteousness of good works. Reflect and discuss. Why is it so hard to identify and own in ourselves?

Righteousness simply means doing right. Self-righteousness is doing the best you can. Jesus says drop it and follow Him. Is that easy or hard for you?

When you know you are loved and accepted, it breeds confidence. We know that is true in human relationships. How does that work in our relationship with God?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

When my new confidence assures me that I am loved and accepted, I am able to move toward a new and worthy ambition—knowing Christ intimately and deeply. How are you experiencing that new ambition now?

The power to overcome sin, to serve, to witness, to grow more like Christ is all found in the resurrection of Christ. In His resurrection Jesus displayed the full extent of His power. Paul says that with our new relationship with Jesus, the same power that resurrected Jesus lives in us. We can live like Jesus and serve others like Jesus. But there must be maximum effort. We must "pursue" like a sprinter—run after it with all our might. How's your pursuit coming?

If you have come to the place where you feel satisfied, that's a very dangerous place to be...very dangerous. Reflect and discuss. How can you be aware of creeping satisfaction?

NEXT STEPS

1. Attend DISCOVER Track.
2. Commit to personal growth.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Confidence is life changing.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Colossians 2:10

Tuesday: Romans 8:1

Wednesday: Daniel 11:32

Thursday: 1 John 4:17

Friday: Hebrews 4:16

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)