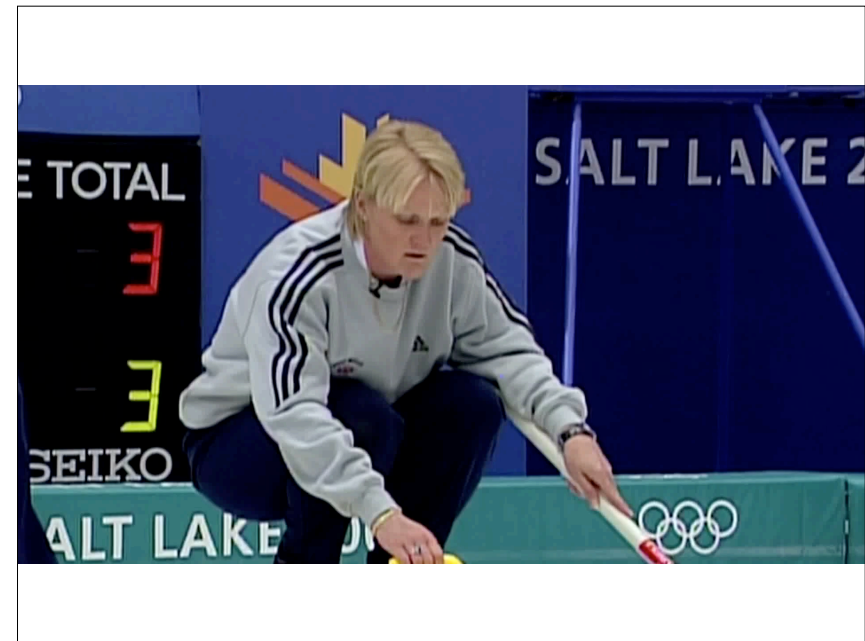




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## WHAT IS CONFIDENCE?

.....

...a belief in one's ability to succeed. Striking a healthy balance can be challenging. Too much of it and you can come off as cocky and stumble into unforeseen obstacles, but having too little can prevent you from taking risks and seizing opportunities—in school, at work, in your social life, and beyond.

*Psychology Today website*

CONFIDENCE IS **NOT** CERTAINTY  
CONFIDENCE **IS** TRUST

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## HOW DO YOU GET CONFIDENCE?

- Confidence results from **belief**
- Belief in your competence
  - usually a result of training or practice
  - comes from repeated experience of success
- Belief in your ability to learn and problem-solve
  - recognise and reject voices in your head saying you can't
  - skill can be acquired
- Belief in your own intrinsic worth
  - 'fall in love with your own life'

Dr Alex Lickerman

5

## 'CONFIDENCE' IN SCRIPTURE

- True and false confidence: Jeremiah 17:5-8
  - 5 Thus says the LORD:  
Cursed is the one who trusts in mere mortals  
and makes mere flesh their strength,  
whose heart turns away from the LORD.
  - 6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.  
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.
  - 7 Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,  
whose confidence is in him.
  - 8 They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

6

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8

## HEZEKIAH'S CONFIDENCE 2 KINGS 18-19

- 'Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God...he held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him...And the LORD was with him' 18:5-7
- Sennacherib and the Assyrian army attacking Israel 18:13
  - Hezekiah paid tribute to Sennacherib 18:14-16
  - Sennacherib sent his commander to Jerusalem to call on Hezekiah to surrender 18:17-25
  - The issue is **confidence** 18:19-22, 28-35
- Isaiah calls on Hezekiah to **trust** in the LORD 19:6-7

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## HEZEKIAH'S CONFIDENCE 2 KINGS 18-19

- Sennacherib's letter 19:9-13
  - Hezekiah's response to the letter 19:14-19
    - He is realistic about the situation 19:17-18
    - He presents the letter to God 19:14
    - He asks help, based on who the LORD is 19:15-16
    - His motivation is God's glory 19:19 '...so that...'
  - God responds through Isaiah 19:20-34
  - God acts by his angel 19:35-36

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## THE CHURCH'S CONFIDENCE ACTS 4:23-31

- Peter and John are forbidden to speak in the name of Jesus v 18
- They return to the believers and report v 23
- They pray vv 24-30
  - Their prayer is based on who God is as Creator v 24
  - Their prayer draws on Scripture vv 25-26 = Psalm 2:1-2
  - They read present events through the lens of Scripture vv 27-28
  - They ask God
    - for power and boldness to speak v 29
    - for action which they cannot perform v 30—so v 31

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## WHERE WE'RE GOING

- Confidence in Scripture is confidence in God, known in Jesus through the Holy Spirit
  - intellectual dimension: loving God with 'mind'
  - experiential dimension: loving God with 'heart and soul'
- Confident in the heart of our faith: the resurrection of Jesus 1 Corinthians 15:12-58
- Confident in the gospel 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Confident in the power of God Psalm 1; Romans 8:1-17
  - Word and Spirit *together* are necessary

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## FOR REFLECTION

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- In what areas would I like to grow in confidence in my faith?
  - Why? What might help?
- In what areas would it benefit our church to grow in confidence in faith?
  - Why? What might help?
- Please write on your card any comment or question from this (or anything else so far) which you have (anonymously is fine) and give it to your group leader to pass on to Steve