

Exhilarating Confidence

In 2 Corinthians 3:4 the Apostle Paul speaks of his 'confidence' in sharing the gospel. Paul is the only person in the NT to use this word for 'confidence'.

It is unique to his writings amongst all the other NT gospels and epistles!

He has taken this word and used it to particularly describe his inner conviction concerning the nature of his task. Paul's confidence rests in the power of Christ to effect the alteration of men who were dead in "trespasses and sins", but who through faith, were now "alive in Christ". That is, God's effective power through the proclamation of the gospel, was the guarantee of its success and triumph!

Paul rejects or disowns any notion or suggestion that he deserves any credit for the transformation of the lives of the Corinthians! He would utterly reject such a suggestion! Paul gives all the 'credit' to God alone; ie., credit is due entirely to the fact that God has made Paul/companions 'sufficient', qualifying them for as ministers of the new covenant! In every aspect of Christian ministry or 'service for Christ' we must grasp and possess the confidence of the 'sufficiency' of Christ to accomplish what He has purposed through the proclamation of the gospel.

At whatever level our ministry of 'service' for Christ is performed; wherever we have opportunity to share our faith (with all our conscious inadequacies) we must be fully confident – of the 'sufficiency of Christ'. What does that mean? It means that Christ will make effective our faltering attempts to sow the seed of eternal life. That is an **exhilarating** 'confidence'. The 'success' of the gospel is not up to our 'cleverness'! Further more, 'our pathetic ineffectiveness', as we struggle to make Christ known amidst opposition/poor results, can never get in the way or hinder what Christ does through us! Exhilarating confidence indeed!

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