

# 3 Levels of Confidence God Builds Before He Elevates You

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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We often look at the giants of the faith—men like David, women like Esther, apostles like Paul—and we assume they were born with an unshakable, steel-plated self-assurance. We see them slaying giants, commanding kings, and enduring shipwrecks, and we think, "I could never be like that. I struggle just to speak up in a meeting or pray out loud in a group." We mistake their finished product for their starting point. We forget that David was the runt of the litter, overlooked by his own father. We forget that Moses had a stutter and begged God to send someone else. We forget that Gideon was hiding in a winepress, terrified of the enemy. The truth is, God does not choose confident people; He chooses broken people and builds a supernatural confidence within them. Before God can elevate you to a position of influence, authority, or blessing, He must first construct a backbone in your spirit. Elevation without confidence is a disaster waiting to happen. If you are promoted before you are secure, your insecurity will sabotage your destiny. You will be crushed by the weight of the glory you were meant to carry. You will be controlled by the opinions of others, swayed by the fear of man, and ultimately, you will fall. God loves you too much to let that happen. That is why, right now, in the season you are in—the season that feels stagnant, difficult, or lonely—God is actually doing construction work. He is excavating the fear and pouring in the concrete of faith. He is moving you through specific levels of confidence, upgrading your operating system from "victim" to "victor." And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the subscribe button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because we believe that truth sets us free. Today, we are going to explore the architecture of this confidence. It is not the arrogance of the world, which says "Look at me"; it is the confidence of the Kingdom, which says "Look at Who is with me." We will walk through the seven pillars that make up these three crucial levels: confidence in your identity, confidence in God's ability, and confidence in your authority. If you have been feeling weak, timid, or unsure of your future, get ready. God is about to download a spirit of boldness into your heart that will change the way you walk into every room for the rest of your life.

### Number 1: The Confidence of the Secret Place (Identity)

The first level of confidence God builds is the foundation of everything: Confidence in your Identity. This does not happen on a stage; it happens in the dark. It happens in the "Secret Place." Before David ever stood before Goliath, he spent years alone in the sheep pastures of Bethlehem. There was no audience. There was no applause. There was just David, the sheep, and God. In that solitude, David learned something that King Saul never learned: he learned who he was when nobody was watching.

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In our modern world, we build our confidence on external validation. We feel good about ourselves if we get likes, if we get a promotion, if people compliment us. But this is a house of cards. One wind of criticism, and it all falls down. God cannot elevate a person who relies on external fuel. So, He takes you into a season of obscurity. He hides you. He allows you to be overlooked. Why? Because He is breaking your addiction to human approval. He is teaching you to find your worth in His voice alone.

When you are in the Secret Place, you learn that you are a child of God not because of what you *do*, but because of who you *are*. You realize that God enjoys your company even when you aren't "producing" anything. This builds a confidence that is unshakeable. When David walked onto the battlefield, his brother Eliab criticized him. He called him arrogant and wicked. If David's confidence had been built on his brother's opinion, he would have packed up and gone home. But David's confidence was built in the Secret Place. He knew who he was, so the criticism bounced off him like water off a duck's back.

If you are feeling invisible right now, if you feel like your gifts are being wasted, realize that God is building Level 1 Confidence. He is saying, "Learn to be confident in My love for you, even if the world never knows your name." Once you are secure in your identity as a son or daughter, you become dangerous to the enemy. You can no longer be manipulated by flattery or destroyed by insults. You are free. This is the bedrock upon which all future elevation stands.

## Number 2: The Confidence of the "Lion and the Bear" (Ability)

Once you know *who* you are, God begins to teach you what *He* can do through you. This is the second level: Confidence in God's Ability. This is not theoretical theology; this is practical, street-level experience. God will bring situations into your life that are just slightly too big for you to handle on your own. He will allow a "lion" or a "bear" to attack your flock.

When the lion attacked David's sheep, David had a choice. He could have run away. He could have said, "I'm just a boy, this is too dangerous." But the Spirit of the Lord rose up in him, and he fought. And in that fight, he discovered a strength he didn't know he had. He grabbed the lion by its beard and killed it. Then the bear came, and he did the same. These were private victories. Nobody saw them. But they were depositing something priceless into David's spirit: a track record with God.

Many of us want to skip the lions and bears and go straight to Goliath. We want the public victory without the private struggle. But you cannot have confidence for Goliath if you haven't built confidence with the lion. The financial crisis you survived last year? That was a lion. The health

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scare you prayed through? That was a bear. The difficult boss you learned to honor? That was a predator. God brought you through those things not just to survive, but to build a resume of trust. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week.

When David stood before Saul to ask for permission to fight Goliath, he didn't say, "I have a degree in warfare." He said, "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them." His confidence was based on history. He knew God was faithful because he had \*seen\* God be faithful. If God is elevating you, expect Him to test you with smaller battles first. Don't despise them. Every small victory is a brick in the wall of your confidence.

## Number 3: The Confidence of Brokenness (Humility)

This sounds contradictory. How can brokenness build confidence? The world says confidence comes from being strong, perfect, and polished. The Kingdom says true confidence comes from knowing you are weak, but He is strong. This is the confidence of Moses. When God met Moses at the burning bush, Moses was a broken man. He was a murderer on the run, hiding in the desert for 40 years. He had lost his princehood, his reputation, and his self-assurance.

When God said, "I am sending you to Pharaoh," Moses said, "Who am I?" This wasn't just insecurity; it was a realistic assessment of his own inability. But God didn't pump up Moses's ego. He didn't say, "You're great, Moses! You got this!" God simply said, "I will be with you." This is the shift. God dismantled Moses's self-confidence (which had led to murder) and replaced it with God-confidence (which led to miracles).

God often has to break our self-reliance before He can use us. He allows us to hit a wall. He allows us to fail in our own strength. Why? So that we never touch the glory. If you think you are smart enough, rich enough, or talented enough to accomplish your destiny, you are a liability. But when you know, "I can't do this, but God can," you become unstoppable. You become fearless because you have nothing to lose and nothing to prove.

The Apostle Paul had this confidence. He called it "boasting in my infirmities." He realized that "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). This is the confidence that scares the devil. The devil knows he can beat \*you\*, but he knows he cannot beat the Christ \*in\* you. When you come to the end of yourself, you step into the beginning of God's power. Elevation requires a limp—a reminder that it is His power, not yours.

## Number 4: The Confidence of Separation (Independence)

As you move toward elevation, God will build a confidence that allows you to stand alone. We call

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this the Confidence of Separation. Most people are terrified of being different. We have a herd mentality. We want to fit in, to be liked, to be part of the group. But leaders—people God elevates—must be willing to walk a solitary path. God cannot take you to the summit if you are afraid to leave the base camp where the crowd is.

Look at Joshua and Caleb. Twelve spies went into the Promised Land. Ten came back with a bad report, paralyzed by fear. Only two came back with confidence. They had to stand against the majority. They had to endure the anger of their own people, who wanted to stone them. Can you imagine the pressure? It takes a massive amount of spiritual confidence to say, "The whole world is wrong, and God is right."

God builds this in you by allowing seasons where you are misunderstood. You might share a dream, and your family laughs. You might make a decision for righteousness, and your friends mock you. This hurts, but it is necessary training. God is toughening your skin. He is teaching you that obedience to Him is more important than acceptance by men. If you need people to agree with you to feel secure, you are not ready to lead. Leaders make decisions based on vision, not consensus.

If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week. The confidence to stand alone is what distinguishes the remnant. It is the spirit of Elijah, who stood against 450 prophets of Baal. It is the spirit of Daniel, who prayed when it was illegal. When God elevates you, He puts you in front. And the person in front has no one blocking the wind for them. You have to be able to take the heat. God is building that heat-resistance in you right now.

## Number 5: The Confidence of the Spoken Word (Authority)

Level 3 Confidence involves Authority. This is where you stop praying *\*about\** the mountain and start speaking *\*to\** the mountain. There comes a point in your spiritual maturity where God expects you to use the authority He has given you. Jesus gave His disciples power to tread on serpents and scorpions. He gave them the keys to the Kingdom. But keys are useless if you don't put them in the lock and turn them.

God builds this confidence by putting you in situations where you have to declare His Word to change your reality. Ezekiel was placed in a valley of dry bones. God didn't say, "Ezekiel, pray for these bones." He said, "Ezekiel, *\*prophesy\** to these bones." He commanded Ezekiel to speak. God was training Ezekiel to release the power of the Word through his own mouth.

You might be facing a situation right now—a sickness, a financial lack, a family crisis—where you

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have prayed and prayed, but nothing has changed. Maybe God is waiting for you to command. He is waiting for you to open your mouth and say, "Sickness, go in the name of Jesus." "Poverty, take your hands off my house." This feels awkward at first. We feel like imposters. But as you practice declaring Scripture, you will see the atmosphere shift. You will realize that your words, when aligned with God's Word, have detonating power.

This is the confidence of the Centurion who told Jesus, "Just speak the word, and my servant will be healed." He understood authority. When God elevates you, you will be in positions where you have to make decrees. You will have to speak life into dead projects. You will have to speak peace into chaotic meetings. God is teaching you the language of kings. Kings do not beg; kings decree.

## Number 6: The Confidence of Endurance (Resilience)

Elevation brings opposition. The higher you go, the stronger the wind. Therefore, God must build a Confidence of Endurance—a resilience that refuses to quit. This is the "Job" level of confidence. Job said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." That is a terrifying level of trust. It means, "No matter what happens, I am not moving."

God builds this by allowing you to go through storms that would sink an ordinary ship. He allows you to be stretched beyond what you think is your breaking point. Why? To show you that you won't break. You think you will snap, but you don't. You wake up the next morning, and you are still standing. You have the grace to endure. This realization—"I can handle this through Christ"—creates a formidable confidence.

Think of the Apostle Paul. Shipwrecked, beaten, stoned, imprisoned. Yet he said, "None of these things move me." How did he get there? By going through them. You cannot learn endurance in a classroom. You learn it in the storm. If you are going through hell right now, keep going. You are building a spiritual stamina that will serve you when you are carrying the heavy mantle of your destiny. You are learning that the storm is not in control; the Anchor is.

This confidence tells the enemy, "You can hit me, but you can't stop me." It is the confidence of the resurrection. It knows that even if things die, God can raise them up. When you have lost the fear of death, failure, and loss, you are truly invincible. This is the grit that sustains long-term success. God doesn't just want you to get to the top; He wants you to stay there. Endurance is the staying power.

## Number 7: The Confidence of Destiny (Vision)

The final pillar is the Confidence of Destiny. This is the ability to see the end from the beginning. It

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is the unwavering belief that what God has started, He will finish. It is the confidence of Joseph, who, even in prison, knew that the dream of the sheaves bowing down would come to pass. He didn't know *\*how\**, and he didn't know *\*when\**, but he knew *\*that\** it would happen.

This confidence allows you to be patient. Insecure people rush. They try to force doors open. They compromise to get ahead quickly. But a person confident in their destiny can wait. They know that God's timing is perfect. They know that no man can shut a door that God has opened. They rest in the sovereignty of God.

God builds this by giving you glimpses of your future—through dreams, prophetic words, or deep internal knowings—and then allowing a delay. The delay is the test. Will you hold on to the vision when the reality looks opposite? Will you believe the promise when you are in the pit? Every time you choose to believe the vision over the visible circumstances, your confidence grows.

When you have this confidence, you walk differently. You don't compete with others because you know your lane is yours. You don't get jealous because you know your portion is reserved. You carry a peace that surpasses understanding. You know that you are a person of destiny, and that the Creator of the Universe is writing your story. You are not a random accident; you are a divine assignment.

## Conclusion

God is meticulous in His preparation. He is not a careless builder who constructs a skyscraper on a sandy foundation. If He is taking you high, He is digging deep. The levels of confidence we have discussed—Identity, Ability, Humility, Separation, Authority, Endurance, and Destiny—are the steel beams in your spiritual structure.

If you are feeling the pressure of the chisel, if you are feeling the heat of the furnace, do not despair. It is not punishment; it is preparation. God is stripping away the false confidence of the flesh so He can replace it with the eternal confidence of the Spirit. He is making you into a weapon of war. He is making you into a leader who will not faint in the day of adversity.

So, lift up your head. Stop looking at your inadequacies and start looking at His sufficiency. Embrace the training ground. Let Him finish the work. Because when He is done, you will not just be elevated; you will be established. You will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, unmovable, unshakable, and fruitful in every season.

Before you go, make sure to subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's

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