



Discipleship 2

Reaching Beyond Mediocrity

Lesson #2

Discovering Choices

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Path of Discipleship

Strengthening Faith

Discovering Love

Establishing Hope

1

Strong security from His love

2

Great confidence in His word

3

Deep intimacy with God

2

Detecting Hope

Psalm 119

“Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:13).

Maintain your faith!

Scriptures - Psalm 119:23-40	Areas of Confidence and Hope
23 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Thy precepts, And I will observe it to the end.	
24 Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, And keep it with all my heart.	
25 Make me walk in the path of Thy commandments, For I delight in it.	
26 Incline my heart to Thy testimonies, And not to dishonest gain.	
27 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, And never more in Thy anger.	
28 Establish Thy word to Thy servant, As Thou which producest revelation for Thee.	
29 Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Thy testimonies are good.	
30 Behold, I long for Thy precepts; Revive through Thy righteousness.	

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Facts from Fiction

“I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one” (1 John 2:14).

Points	Problems	Products
You are strong	We do not believe we are strong	We feel weak
The word of God abides in you	We do not believe the Word of God abides in us	We feel helpless
You have overcome the evil one	We do not believe we have overcome the evil one	We are manipulated

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The Battlefield

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1).

Hope is the seed of faith.



Destroy hope, and one only has defeat.



The battlefield is our minds.
The battle is over what we believe.

“...Strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” (Ephesians 2:12).

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Reflections on Evaluation



In what areas have you developed hope?

In what areas do you need to develop hope?

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Looking for Hope

- Feel defeated
- Note one's thoughts

Start to notice what thoughts linger in your mind when you think about your defeats or victories.

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The Path of Life

Spiritual growth is best defined as a development of our **faith** in God.

Equipped to serve

Path of righteous

Hope overcomes

“For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.” Psalms 1:6

“So you will walk in the way of good men, And keep to the paths of the righteous.” Proverbs 2:20

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Three Choices

Which do you most often choose?

LACK OF CONFIDENCE

Confidence in God

Aberrations of that faith form inner and relational problems.

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

Woman with hemorrhage for 12 years
Mark 5:25-28

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The Bounce

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

LACK OF CONFIDENCE

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Gaining Discernment

GOD-FOCUSED CONFIDENCE

LACK OF CONFIDENCE

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

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Making Good Matches

LACK OF CONFIDENCE

Worrisome
Despairing
Sad
Doubtful
Depressed
Anxious
Fearful
Hopeless
Stressed out
Indecisive
Self-hate

GOD-FOCUSED CONFIDENCE

Loving
Joyful
Patient
Kind
Peaceful
Faithful
Good
Faithful
Self-control
Merciful
Gentle
Reasonable
Without hypocrisy

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

Self-ambitious
Argumentative
Envy
Jealousy
Hatred
Defiant
Despiteful
Self-ambitious
Deceiver
Bitter
Revengeful
Immoral
Gossiper
Backbiter
Swears
Angry
Lying
Lustful
Prideful
Critical

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Helpful Definitions

LACK OF CONFIDENCE

Insecure individuals lack the ability to trust in God's constant love for them.

GOD-FOCUSED CONFIDENCE

Faithful individuals believe that God will watch over their needs if they carry out their own responsibilities.

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

Self-ambitious individuals believe accomplishing their great plans gives them the best life possible.

Purpose: Trying to better understand the way faith impacts decisions.

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Distortions

LACK OF CONFIDENCE

Insecure individuals lack the ability to trust in God's constant love for them.

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

Self-ambitious individuals believe accomplishing their great plans gives them the best life possible.

Insecure - felt unloved

Seek confirmation of love

'Allow petting', buying things, looking pretty, getting compliments

Self-ambitious - success is everything

Do everything to get success

Workaholic, lie, backbite, wrong priority

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Path of Restoration

- * Trust in God's way is superior. This is God's design.
- * God's ways are always best in every way.
- * Our sin nature causes us to seek other ways.
- * Our confidence is shown in our decisions and attitudes.
- * 'Other' ways always bring emotional, physical, relational and spiritual problems.
- * Solutions are found by spotting how our trust has been in other things and to place our trust in the Lord.

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