

A dramatic scene of a stone wall crumbling under a bright, sunburst light, with rubble scattered on the ground. The wall is made of large, moss-covered stones, and the light is breaking through a hole in the wall, creating a powerful sunburst effect. The ground is covered in dark, jagged rocks and debris.

CRISIS OF
CONFIDENCE

You may face a
crisis of confidence,
**but you've been
called to carry
confidence in crisis.**



John 8:32 (NIV)

You will know the truth,
and the truth will **set you free.**

3 John 1:2-4

I pray that you may **prosper in
all things and be in health,**
just as your soul prospers.

Psalms 1:1-3

His delight is in the law of the Lord...
he shall be like a tree planted by
rivers of water... **whatever he does
shall prosper.**



PROSPER

- Flourishing soul
- Stability
- Fruit that lasts
- Alignment with God's purposes.
- Often but not always accompanied by outward blessing.



WHAT OPPOSES TRUTH?

For the time will come when they **will not tolerate sound doctrine**; but wanting to have their **ears tickled**, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their **own desires**,⁴ and they will **turn their ears away** from the truth.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NASB)



BEARING CONFIDENCE IN CRISIS

- (1)** Confidence in our Identity.
- (2)** Spiritual Alignment, not drifting.
- (3)** Where our Hope lies.



CONFIDENCE

in our identity

Are we the called out, holy ones
or are we a service provider?

But you are A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A royal PRIESTHOOD,
A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION,
so that you may **proclaim** the excellencies of Him who has
called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1 Peter 2:9 (NASB)



- **Identity is received, not negotiated** - *“What has God said?”*
- **Identity shaped by relevance in the wrong way.**
Truth flows from culture → to the church → adjust your message.
The church asks: “What will people accept?”
- **‘Crises’ are refining moments.**
 - Faith becomes intellectual, not in power of experience.
 - Prayer feels routine, rather than power transformation & conviction.
 - Little expectation of God’s intervention.
 - People start to ask: “Is God truly at work among us?”



SPIRITUAL ALIGNMENT, *not drifting*

Distractions enter as a result of competing influences even from spiritual activities:

- Focus on personal healing & emotional well-being.
- Sin reframed as only brokenness, not rebellion.

True Gospel Heals, Restores and Confronts.



WHERE OUR *Hope* lies

In a crisis of confidence, God

- Preserves a Faithful remnant.
- Restores clarity when Truth is recovered.
- Renews power when Dependence returns.



DEATH & RESURRECTION
of Jesus Christ are precious

Not because of our successes,
but He keeps us from collapsing
under our failures.



My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1: 2-4



Tension in the Churches

in the book of Revelation

Philadelphia Church is Faithful and aligned

- True alignment in God-shaped and effective.

Smyrna Church is Faithful under pressure

- God-shaped and not swayed by relevance.

Pergamum Church is Compromise with culture

- Mixture of God-shaped and culture-shaped.

Thyatira Church is Love without boundaries

- Relevance overtaking truth.

Laodicea Church is Lukewarm in neutrality

- Maximum cultural alignment with minimal spiritual influence and impact.
- Widely-accepted but no longer deeply transformative.

Sardis Church is Reputation without reality

- Externally relevant, internally empty.

Ephesus Church is Truth without love

- God-shaped truth, but relational drift.



Crisis of Confidence starts quietly with identity shifts.

Fear of losing relevance or acceptance

The fear of man brings a snare, but one
who trusts in the LORD will be protected.

Proverbs 29:25 (NASB)



Guardrails to staying God-Shaped.

...constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the good doctrine which you have been following.⁷ ... discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;⁸ ... but **godliness is beneficial for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.**⁹ It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.

1 Timothy 4:6-9 (NASB)



TENSION EXPERIENCED IS NOT RANDOM, BUT IS CONSISTENT IN HISTORY.

- David with Saul
- Esther with Mordecai
- Joseph with his brothers



And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"

Genesis 48:11



Joseph receives firstborn status, the double-portion.

Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow.

Genesis 48:22



Firstborn



Father



Bet — Chaf — Resh
2 20 200

Alef — Bet
1 2

- Firstborns multiply and expand what's given.
- Fathers' values are multiplied to future generations, carrying the mission forward.



Isaac *instead of Ishmael.*

Jacob *instead of Esau – Jacob I loved, Esau I hate.*

Joseph *instead of Reuben.*

**Joseph preserved
Legacy in Egypt.**



Israel is not the 1st of nations, yet God chose him to be His natural firstborn.

..... **The Church is being refined, false foundations are being shaken and exposed.**



God calls us back to confidence in Him.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation...¹⁸ firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:15, 18

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven.

Hebrews 12:23



Confidence anchored in circumstances will collapse, but confidence anchored in God can endure and continues to grow under strain.

**Expectation
fuels endurance.**

