

The Confidence Gap

Study Guide - Week Two: Security

In the first week of this series we focused on the confidence we can gain in our forgiveness because of the cross. This week we turn our attention to the confidence we can gain in our future because of the resurrection.



Read Luke 24:12. Imagine the rush of confidence Peter and the others felt when they found the tomb empty! In this study, we will focus on how we can live with the same level of confidence even though we didn't see the empty grave with our own eyes.

What Do You Think?

- Fear is a powerful thing; all of us experience it at one point or another. What fears are struggles for you, either past or present? Is death one of them? Why?
- Just as we can have life in heaven and confidence now on earth, we can experience death forever and fear now. What differences do you observe between people living in confidence and those living in fear?

“But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.” Luke 24:12 (ESV)

What Does God Say?

- Confidence Booster: Christ's resurrection was empowered by the same Spirit who lives in me. **Read Romans 8:5-11.** As a Christian, you can have real life through the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead and lives in you. How do you live according to the Spirit and set your mind on the things of the Spirit? What tangible changes do you see when you are doing this?
- Confidence Booster: Christ's resurrection gives me hope for the future. **Read Romans 8:12-18 and 23-25.** What is the hope this scripture is talking about? If it is in the future, what difference does it make today? Do you have an example of when this future hope has made a difference in the present?



“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” Romans 8:24-25 (ESV)

- Confidence Booster: Christ’s resurrection gives me confidence for today.
Read Romans 8:26-29. Life now does not mean everything will get easier. What are these verses saying about what real life looks like for us? What is our purpose and how can it give us confidence regardless of our situation?
- Confidence Booster: Christ’s resurrection proves nothing can separate me from God’s love.
Read Romans 8:31-39. What gives Paul this level of confidence that he will not be separated from the love of God? What does it look like to be “more than a conqueror” because Jesus conquered the grave?

What Will You Do?

- Revisit the fears discussed at the beginning of this study. How does the resurrection and life in the Spirit help give you confidence in the face of these specific fears?
- Your life is not random chance; it is directed by God. Is there a part of your life that you have been trying to control because of fear? What do you need to do to release your fear so you can be released to life in that particular area?
- In this group, we want each other to experience full life. How can we encourage one another to live according to the Spirit and set our minds on the things of the Spirit?

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:9-10 (ESV)

