

WHY GOD BROUGHT DOWN NEBUCHADNEZZAR
The Place For Confidence
Part 6
Dan. 4:31-37

INTRODUCTION

We have seen over the past several weeks that pride is not the proper operating system for the Grace Believer. The believer is able to accomplish the thing God desires while in this body through the power that He supplies. We see from Scripture that since He supplies this power, It is He to whom all credit belongs. We will see today that the believer can have the utmost confidence in those things that God does through him in the world. We will also see that boasting for the believer is not in self, but in the things our Master accomplishes through us.

- I. BELIEVERS ARE DISCOURAGED IN SCRIPTURE FROM DIRECTING FOCUS UPON ONESELF.
 - A. Believers in Rome were discouraged from thinking of themselves above what was necessary. Rom. 12:3
 1. The phrase “think of himself” is the Greek word *huperphronein* -- to frame above.
 2. The proper view a mind locked in on present tense salvation - *sopronein*. Cf. Tit. 2:6
 - B. Paul urged the Philippian believers to “esteem” others better than themselves. Phil. 2:3
 1. “Esteem” is the Greek word *hegomai* which is used in Scripture of “to hold a view or have an opinion with regard to something.” -- Louw-Nida
 2. *Hegomai* is used twice in the New Testament, both uses directed towards others. Cf. 1st Thess. 5:13
- II. BELIEVERS ARE EQUIPPED TO OPERATE WITH BOLDNESS.
 - A. Boldness is *parresia* -- “**a state of confidence, sometimes implying intimidating circumstances, courage (use in provisions of God).**” Louw-Nida. Cf. Acts 14:3 (of the apostles speaking without fear in the midst of persecution)
 - B. Boldness is used often in Scripture with regard to confidence in speaking things pertaining to God.
 1. Boldness is used in Scripture to indicate the means of speaking.
 - a) *Parresia* is used with prepositions to indicate means. Cf. Acts 2:29; 4:29,31; Heb. 4:16

- b) Parresia is used to indicate the lack of confidence to articulate belief based upon fear. Cf. John 7:13 (of the people in the temple concerning Jesus)
 - 2. Boldness is used in Scripture to indicate the manner of speaking.
 - a) It is used to indicate the manner of how the Lord spoke in the temple. Cf. John 7:26
 - b) Parresia is used of the manner of how the apostle Paul spoke in the synagogue. Acts 19:8; 1st Thess. 2:2
 - c) Apollos spoke boldly in the synagogue. Acts 18:26
- C. Boldness is used in Scripture to indicate confidence in relations to God.
 - 1. The believer can have confidence in communication. Heb. 4:16; 1st John 5:14
 - 2. The believer can have confidence in the day of judgment. 1st John 4:17
 - 3. The believer can have confidence at his appearing. 1st John 2:28

III. THE SPIRITUAL BELIEVER DIRECTS BOASTING TOWARDS THE PROPER OBJECT.

- A. Boasting is the Greek word kauchaomai -- **expression of self confidence based upon one's own merit.** cf. 1st Co. 5:6 (of the Corinthians in their attitude to the man with his father's wife); Rom. 4:2 (Abraham if he were justified by works)
 - 1. The verb form of the word is only used in the middle voice (40 times -- 22 times in the books of 1st and 2nd Corinthians)
 - 2. Kauchaomai is often translated "glory" in the King James.
 - 3. The noun form of kauchaomai is used to emphasize the results of boasting. Cf. 1st Co. 5:6 (not good)
- B. Boasting in others is seen as a good thing in Scripture. 2 Thess. 1:4
- C. There are problems with boasting for one's own benefit.
 - 1. One can be thought of above what he seems to be. 2 Co. 12:6
 - 2. It can exalt things driven by the flesh. Gal. 6:13; Phil. 3:3
 - 3. It discredits God's work. Eph. 2:9
- D. Believers can have false boast.
 - 1. In Men. 1 Co. 3:21
 - 2. In Self. 1st Co. 4:6-7
 - 3. After the flesh 2 Co. 11:18; 12:5
- E. The object of the believer's boasting.
 - 1. Believers can boast in tribulations. Rom. 5:2-3

2. Weaknesses. 2 Co. 11:30; 12:9
3. In examination of “the work” produced by him. Gal. 6:4 cf. 2 Co. 10:13-15
 - a) “Prove” is dokimazo which means “to learn the genuineness of something by examination and testing,” -- Louw-Nida cf. 1st Co. 11:28
 - b) “Himself” is the use of the reflexive pronoun emphasizing the individual doing the test to himself.
 - c) The examination is concerning “the work” -- the articular use of ergon noting the thing God has the believer accomplishing. Cf. Acts 13:2; 14:26; 15:38; 1st Co. 3:13; 1st Thess. 5:13
 - d) Testing of the good work produces boasting to oneself, alone and not to another “of a different kind.”

F. The basis of the believer’s boasting

1. Believers boast in the Lord. 1st Co. 1:31; 2 Co. 10:17
2. The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gal. 6:14

CONCLUSION

