

Week 17

God's Grace, Our Confidence

Ephesians 3:7-9

Bethany Lay

Paul is one of my most favorite people in the Bible. I love his bold confidence that is constantly balanced by his humility. Both are evident in these verses.

Paul boldly owns his mission in verse 7. He said that he was given the privilege of serving God by spreading the Good News. There is no wavering in this. He didn't say, "I think I have been given..." or "I might have been given..." Later in verse 9, he owns his calling. He said that he was chosen. His declaration is clear and confident.

Right in the middle, in verse 8, Paul calls himself the least deserving of all God's people. Paul?! Really?! We often, now, call him the greatest missionary to have ever lived. He is placed second only to Christ in many discussions when it comes to the Christian life.

Yet, he says that he was the least deserving of all God's people. He knew his sin. He knew his shortcomings. His past did not escape his memory. He understood completely that he was not at all worthy of the calling that he had been given.

However, Paul did not wallow in his inadequacies. Instead, he acknowledged that it was God's grace and power that gave him what he needed to complete the mission for which he was chosen.

In the Christian circles I have been in, we often define humility as being a self-deprecating practice. Confidence is viewed as pride, and in humility we must put ourselves down. But neither of these is truth. Paul was confident and humble simultaneously, and this was made possible because his confidence was in God's grace and power.

When we put our confidence in God's grace and power, we are acutely aware that we are not the least bit deserving. But we are also acutely aware that we have been chosen to do the good works that God puts before us. We can serve Him with both confidence and humility.

Question: Are you fearful of accepting God's call because you feel unworthy? How can you confidently serve God?

Walk it Out: The next time someone compliments you for doing the work that God has called you to do, reply with a simple, "Thank you." Then take a moment to thank God for his grace and mighty power.

Prayer: Dear God, I am so blessed to be called your daughter and to be chosen to serve You. Thank you. Please transform me to walk in confidence and humility in all that You have called me to do.