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**DO NOT CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE**

**HEBREWS 10:35 - HEBREWS 11:2**

Do not cast away your confidence on the strength of the Word of God. The Bible assures us of the good track record of God that He is entirely reliable and that we can rest assured that He is faithful. Joshua at the end of his life in Joshua 23:14 says that Joshua 23:14 (NKJV) 14 "Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed. These words were later echoed by King Solomon as he dedicated the temple for he says 1 Kings 8:56 (NKJV) "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses. Not only that, but we hear the apostles in the book of Hebrews saying Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful".

This is why it is important to know the scriptures and live by them. It is not just enough to hear, but we must know and then live by the word of the Lord. It is the scriptures that shape our lives and secure our destiny. It is the scriptures that are the foundation of our faith for it says that faith comes to us as we hear the word of God. This word of God is so important that we are told that the devil would snatch it from our hearts if we do not receive it properly. The psalmist has said that he has hidden the Word of the Lord in his heart so that he would not sin against the Lord (Psalm 119:11). You need to hide the Word of God so that the devil would not steal it. It should be your most treasured possession. It is the sword of the Spirit that would put the devil to flight.

Our topic today is based on Hebrews 10: 35 to Hebrews 11:2. The key words here are **Confidence, Faith and Reward**. It starts by saying "Do not cast away your confidence which has great reward". Do not abandon your faith along the way before you receive the outcome of your faith. Do not be like King Saul who was told by the prophet to wait for him but then he got anxious and took the matter in his own hands. He had been told by Prophet Samuel that as he observed certain circumstances and occurrences during the war with his enemies, he was to count seven days and that on the seventh day Prophet Samuel would arrive to perform Priestly duties which would result in a divine intervention that would reverse King Saul's losses and restore his gains. But when King Saul saw the situation going out of hand and his soldiers deserting him he decided to perform the Priestly duties himself. But just after King Saul completed the sacrificial rites Prophet Samuel arrived on the scene. King Saul was at a loss to explain his actions and instead of getting sympathy he was met with a stern rebuke because he had intruded into an office which he had no business

meddling with. The matter was so serious that he was told that his kingdom would not continue but had been transferred to someone else (1Samuel 13:14).

Having confidence in God attracts a reward. As we wait in faith for God to fulfill his word in our lives, God is honoured. But if we are not willing to wait, God is not honoured since we make Him out as unreliable. In actual fact we make God our servant if we would have him act according to our own dictates and expectations. Hebrews 11:6 says that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We must have quiet confidence in God as a little child would have in a loving parent. Those who are parents know that once a child secures a promise from the parent to do something for the child, as far as the child is concerned the matter is settled and the promise would be honoured. Can we also as God's children take God at his word? God assures us that He is watching over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12) and that the word that has gone out of His mouth would not return to Him void but would accomplish what it had been sent to do (Isaiah 55:11). As we receive the prophetic word over our lives let us be diligent to ensure that we get exactly what that word says. We are not to get a fuzzy word because we would soon forget it and we would not even recognize its fulfillment when it happens. We would have robbed God of the honour of his faithfulness in fulfilling His promises. We are to keep that word alive in our hearts and thoughts. We are to meditate on that prophetic word and expect it to be worked out in our lives and situations. That way our faith will grow and so will our confidence in God grow as we realise that He is not just out there far away but He is actually here with us.

As we build our confidence in God's word this will give us confidence that God will back up our position or stance. Like what he did for Prophet Samuel He would not let our word fall to the ground (1Samuel 3:19). When we speak a word in His name and His honour He would ensure that the word accomplishes the intended purpose. Such was the confidence of Apostle Peter that he was able to tell a crippled man that Acts 3:6 (NKJV) “ Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” This was not granted to him because he was an apostle but because he had confidence in the Lord not only of His power but of His ability to back him up as he performed a miracle in His name. Such is the potential for us to do great things in the name of the Lord if only we can have faith and confidence in Him.