



Ring of Confidence





A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved dress, is sitting on a swing. She is smiling and looking down at a large white egg-shaped sign that is suspended from the swing's ropes. The sign has the text "now even lighter" written on it in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a soft-focus landscape with hills under a pale sky. At the bottom of the frame, a small portion of a pack of Marlboro Lights cigarettes is visible.

now
even
lighter





Confidence bestowed

- In a garden – the Garden of Eden
- He gave them a job they could confidently do
– to work and take care of the garden
- And responsibility they could confidently bear
– to name the animals and birds
- Made them a couple – to support one another
- And they felt no shame being naked

Confidence stolen

Genesis 3:1-13

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.

5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Confidence stolen

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Confidence stolen

11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Confidence stolen

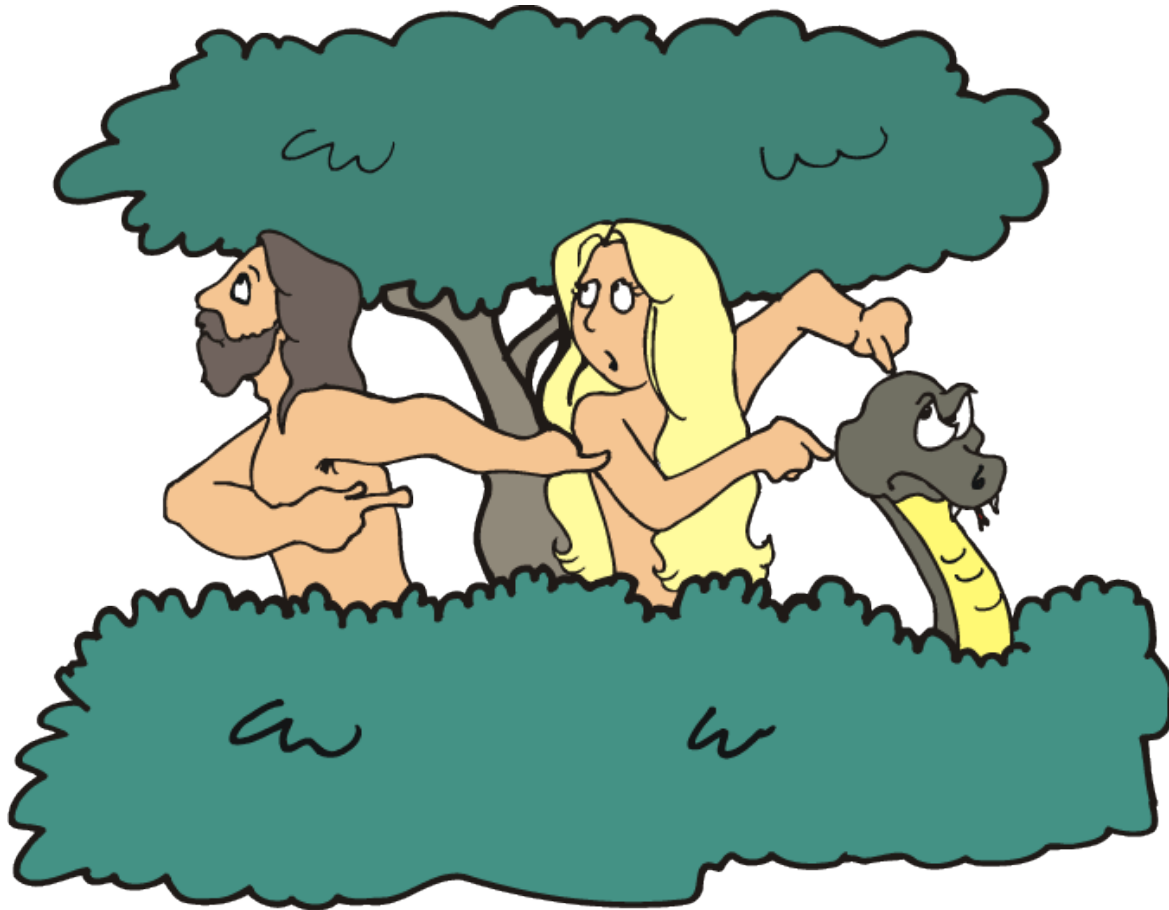
- The Devil has only one basic trick
- Although he uses lots of variants!
- He is an old-style 'con-man' = confidence trickster
- He played with and stole Eve's confidence

Confidence stolen

- The Devil has only one basic trick
- Although he uses lots of variants!
- He is an old-style 'con-man' = confidence trickster
- He played with and stole Eve's confidence
- Gen 2:17 "... you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.

Confidence stolen

- “The woman you put here”



Confidence lacking

- They deserved to die
- And so they would die, eventually



Confidence restored

- On to another Garden – The Garden of Gethsemane
- The scene of another history-changing decision ...



Confidence restored

Matthew 26

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” **37** He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. **38** Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Confidence restored

40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. **41** “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

Confidence restored

- But the cross was not the end for Jesus!
- He died but was raised to life!
- And he now sits at the right hand of Father God
- Speaking in our favour – reminding God that we are innocent

Confidence restored

Because JESUS took (once and for all) the blame for what we did and what we do

We can be confident of:

- Confidence for salvation
- Confidence for acceptance
- Confidence for forgiveness
- Confidence for restoration
- Confidence for purpose in life

Confidence restored

- So what must I do?



Confidence restored

1. Turn away from your sins

First, we need to recognise that some of the things we do, think and say are wrong and are not in keeping with the way that God wants us to live. They simply do not match up with the example Jesus set us. So first we must turn away from our sins and turn toward God. Through his death on the cross, Jesus took the punishment for us so we can be forgiven

Confidence restored

2. Believe in and acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord

In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul wrote the following words “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” It is only through Jesus that we can come into a full relationship with God and know that we will be with Him for eternity in heaven. Trust in him and make following Jesus the number one priority in your life.

Confidence restored

3. Join a fellowship of believers

The human body is made up of many parts, each with its own specific purpose, working together so that the body as a whole functions well. The same is true of the church: we need each other as a source of encouragement, teaching, counsel and, when necessary, correction.

Confidence restored

4. Be baptised in water

Baptism simply means being totally covered and immersed. Jesus himself was baptised in the River Jordan by his cousin John. For us, baptism is a sign to the world that we have made a personal commitment to become a Christian and to follow Jesus. As we sink beneath the water it symbolises that we have died to our old life; and when we come up again we it symbolises that we have been raised to life we are a new creation through Christ.

Confidence restored

5. Be baptised in the Holy Spirit

The bible talks about another kind of baptism: Baptism by the Holy Spirit. This was the promised by Jesus and first happened for the church on the day of Pentecost that we read about in second chapter the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit is evidenced in our lives through certain gifts that empower us to live out our faith. He also works in us to develop a godly character.

Confidence assured

2 Corinthians 1

- ²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
- Holy Spirit is a deposit

Confidence assured

- Holy Spirit is our guarantee



Ring of confidence



Please join me in prayer

