



Pastor Hanke's Blog

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Pride vs Confidence

Bible Reference: Acts 2:14, 22-36

Is being confident and prideful the same thing? What should I be confident in and is there a place for pride as a Christian? Growing up I remember my grandma was always afraid of being proud, even proud of her grandkids. She was conflicted; she didn't want to seem proud of our accomplishments as a "my grandkid is better than your grandkid" thing, yet she was confident that our accomplishments were the work of God the Father who created us and Holy Spirit in us who was modeling and shaping us. So what was she to do?

When we look at our story in Scripture, Peter was not shy nor did he lack confidence in what he spoke to the people. He was actually very confident. How do we know if it was a confidence in his speaking ability or a confidence in the words he was conveying? After just participating in Doug's ordination, I think about this dilemma too. As a pastor, it is a battle to trust that it is the gifts from the Holy Spirit that help you speak as you do, rather than think you are doing it on your own. It's like the dilemma my grandma faced, where you feel like you shouldn't even acknowledge or have pride in your accomplishments or those of God's people. And yet, why shouldn't we? We often have no problem acknowledging someone's unique gifts and talents and telling them how we see God working in and through them.

This picks up right where we left off last week, and begs the question, "Where should my confidence lie?" In the reading for this week Peter acknowledges his confidence in the life and work of David. Scripture is not shy about sharing the life the stories of people and talking about their accomplishments. Scripture is also not shy about acknowledging the their sins. Most importantly, though, Scripture connects every person to Christ. This is where their confidence, Peter's confidence, and our confidence ultimately rests—in Jesus.

This all hinges on the Spirit inside someone. This is an unknown factor from the outside; you can't peer into a person and see if the Spirit is there or not. Personally we may call into question the Spirit in us when we acknowledge our sin, and yet when we acknowledge the unique gifts we have and who has given them to us (the Spirit), we connect our lives back to Jesus. When my grandma felt puzzled by this, her system was to not verbally recognize

accomplishments at all, or if she did say something she would tag on “I shouldn’t say this.” Peter was doing the opposite in our reading. We can see the conflict in Peter’s speaking, but then he draws the connection back to Jesus and verbalized it—an example we should follow. Sometimes we will speak with confidence as well, but always look for that moment to give Jesus credit for the work happening in us.

This weekend we take a closer look at the words Peter spoke on Pentecost. We ask questions about why can he be so confident? In a world full of doubt, we ask where should our confidence come from and how do we display that to the world? What do the words of Peter teach us about our everyday conversations in this unchurched culture?

God's Peace,

Pastor Will