

# In the Barn!

## Barneys Newsletter



No. 39 – 15th August 2021



## Where is your Confidence?

Personally, I have struggled simply to understand what confidence is. Years ago a trainer in the Anglican Church said to me that ministers have a certain self-confidence. This surprised me a the time. I thought of confidence as faith in yourself and your abilities. And so the surprised and conflicted at the comment. I knew what the trainer was saying was right, but I didn't understand how a minister could have self-confidence.

And so I wrestled for years trying to understand how a minister could be self-confident, yet also confident in the gospel? Surely being self-confident is opposite to be confident in Jesus. Isn't that like wrestling a lion? Just foolish!

The answer came for me when I realised the truth of main Joe's point in Hebrews 10. Ministers are not self-confident in themselves, instead they are confident in Jesus. They are not confident in their abilities, but of Jesus ability to save. The confidence and assurance all Christians have is in God's ability to complete

**C**an you wrestle a lion? Apparently a small percentage of American and British folk think they can. Sometimes in life we can be over-confident in the wrong things, and under confident in the things that should have our whole assurance. Joe's talk this week in Hebrews forced us to ask the question of ourselves - what are we confident in?

**by Adam Richards**

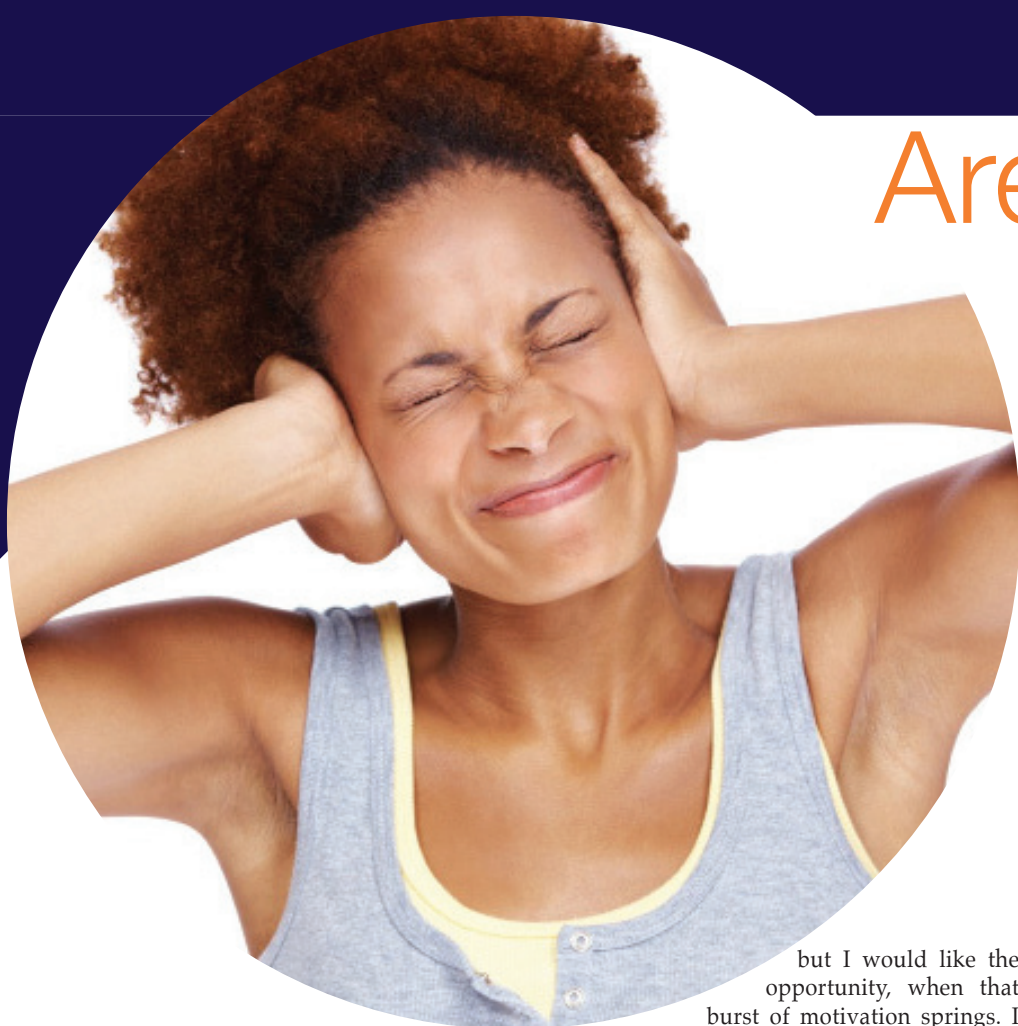
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# Are You Listening?

by **Kathy Hansen**

**F**eel like you are missing out? Everyone does. Young people missing out on landmark parties, school, sport. On the other end of the scale, one 8am congregant said: I don't have enough time left to spend it sitting around at home doing nothing.

I moved into a house in March, with plans for it. Little repairs, blinds, rugs, a garden. Most of which I haven't done. I can't go anywhere to source anything. I am such a procrastinator I would not have done much of it yet;

but I would like the opportunity, when that burst of motivation springs. I have friends near Wollongong; we long to catch up properly. We can't.

There are those who have missed out on anything else at all.

We live in an alien landscape. The world is unpredictable, day by day. We are made to be relational; with our heavenly father, and with each other. We are made to spend time together, to share our lives, to stop and chat. How have we ended up in a world where those things are impossible if we want to survive?

It teaches us the value of human interaction. But I already learnt that

lesson last winter. Why do I have to learn it again continuously, month after month. Extra aggravations too. Last year, I could smile at people; now I can't. Last year I could see; now my glasses fog. What's the point of that lesson? What else do we need to learn?

If you are anything like me, you have asked God these questions. The answer, if he has answered it yet, has been so subtle I haven't heard it. God knows I don't do subtlety. Either he has answered, and I haven't listened; or he hasn't answered it yet. Maybe patience is the lesson. I find more contentment in small things. Listening to birds. A phone call with someone. That feeling of joy when I help someone. The pull to focus on lifting others, rather than dwelling on my own woes.

I emphasise I have not turned into a paragon of patience and unselfishness. Yesterday I was banging my desk because a document wouldn't open. I was annoyed with someone who was chasing me about something. Two days earlier, I was annoyed with someone else for not chasing me. Utterly contradictory. I did not express that annoyance to either of them. I expressed it both times to another friend. When I moaned about the second person, he not so subtly pointed out my hypocrisy. I did not see it until then. I saw how ridiculous I was and laughed at myself. I sincerely value honest friends. When I'm alone so much, it's easy to lose perspective and

become totally focussed on myself.

Maybe God is answering my questions now. Slowly. Drip by drip. We can't always accept the whole truth about something all at once. We grow to awareness slowly. The Old Testament shows us that. God made his plan for our salvation known slowly over multiple generations, through his creation, his interactions with mankind, his prophets.

I am reading Psalms. It captures so eloquently the longings, desires and frustrations of our hearts, of living in a broken world. The psalmists cling with absolute dependence on the promise of God's love and justice. They hear their own desires in their hearts; yet over all that white noise, they hear the roaring waterfall of God's love. Jump into that waterfall, trust that God will carry you along it to a deep clear river of life.

I will keep listening. To the birds. To people on the phone. To my lovely, sincere, honest friends. To the word of God. I will keep listening for answers to my prayers. God answers them. Day by day, drip by drip. Small joys and small lessons that grow into deep contentment, and lifelong wisdom.

We are missing out on a lot right now. But we are not missing out on God's love and providence towards us. God has an abundance of love and grace pouring out on us every day. We just have to open our hearts and minds and listen for it.

his purposes.

As it says in Hebrews

*“let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.”* (Hebrews 10:22)

Christian confidence flows out of God’s good work for us. Further to this, Christian confidence in the blood of Jesus is built on God’s sovereignty. This is when I came to understand what the trainer was driving at when he spoke about a minister’s self-confidence. Jesus’ blood through God’s sovereignty gives all Christians assurance

of the future. That no matter the circumstances we find ourselves placed in by God, our future is assured.

Joe’s talk on Hebrews 10 this week is very good, and if you haven’t heard it I suggest you find a way or make the time to listen to it. It gives Christians confidence in what God has done for us in Jesus. And it is once a Christians has placed their confidence in Jesus that Christians do have the self-confidence the trainer was talking about. And this leads us to having courage in the face of an uncertain world, no matter the circumstances God places us.

## COVID Memes



The Corna Virus won’t last long because it was “Made in China.”

Well I know one peice of medical advice I won’t be following in these times, and it is the Association of American Pediatrics’ guidelines on Screen Time.

## Find-A-Word

Aggravation	Document	Jesus	Providence
Birds	Generation	Listen	Question
Circumstances	Heart	Noise	Realtor
Confidence	Hypocrisy	Procrastinate	Relational
Contradictory	Interaction	Prophet	

N E T S I L D G P D R B C E W  
 E J T H E A R T R O M E S T E  
 C Y D A Y U B S T V C I E U R  
 N Q O Q N T S L P N O H A S E  
 E U C E B I A G E N P R A I L  
 D E U N O E T D T O O I G V A  
 I S M K R T I S R J E S U S T  
 V T E R J F Y P A Y Z U W O I  
 O I N Q N O I T A R E N E G O  
 R O T O I N T E R A C T I O N  
 P N C K A G S D R I B O G X A  
 U V Y S I R C O P Y H E R R L  
 S E C N A T S M U C R I C P Z  
 G C O N T R A D I C T O R Y N  
 R A G G R A V A T I O N K H S

## PRAYER POINTS



- Give thanks for our the blood of Jesus which gives us full assurance that we can enter the most Holy place of Heaven.
- Pray for NSW as it continues to struggle with the effects of COVID. Pray for those who are fearufl of death at this time.
- Pray for the church as we contineu to wait for the day when we gather again and rejoice in all that Jesus has done for us.