



November 06, 2009

Dear Friends:

## **CONFIDENCE CRISIS**

This morning I was tuned in to one of the business channels as they reported on the latest economic numbers and our current financial condition. We now live in one of those, "we've never been here before" moments and, at times; the queasy feeling of uncertainty is quite plausible. The daily jousting is always sadly interesting as all the different sides take the daily reports and what they can't spin, they blame on somebody else.

Our government now owns about one sixth (and counting) of our economy and they want us to just relax as the power grab increases. But, one of the leading, most trustworthy, indicators as to whether we really believe this is called, The Consumer Confidence Index. Meaning, does the consumer (me and you) really have confidence in the current governmental, business and financial direction and in the reports that tell us to believe that things are all of a sudden better? Forget what people say, the experts declare, and look at what they are actually doing with their money. According to the data, we are holding our checkbooks close and extreme caution guides us because the dismal, past governmental performances have dictated the uncertainties of tomorrow. All of the foundations have been shaken. Thus, the confidence gauge is stuck on E.

Clearly, on every level, there is a crisis in confidence.

In the late Sixties, I was captivated by the new sound of Andrae Crouch as he rocked the piano and sang one of my favorites, "I've got confidence, God is gonna see me through, no matter what the case may be, I know, He's gonna fix it for me." Profound, huh? During my younger years, I loved the new hip sound and sang it with joy and excitement with nary a clue that I might have to actually live it and hang on to it someday down the road.

Confidence is an unusual animal. Good confidence (and Drew Brees) can change a 21 point deficit into a big time, come from behind win (plug for the Saints right here). Good confidence can defy all the odds, and change expected outcomes. In their case, confidence is a great motivator especially when backed by talent and past wins.

A solid God Confidence enabled a young shepherd boy to be fearless, even when the shadow of a loud mouth giant ran across his face. Confidence brims with energy, action and surety. Confidence leaps over "conventional wisdom". Confidence is a "God Thing".

The Hebrews writer knew this. He said, "Don't throw away your confidence, it is valuable and will bring rich reward!" Paul was quite tuned into this concept. He was "confident" that his God would complete him in every great way. He was confident that he could ask anything in his Lord's Name with expectation and anticipation. He had no confidence in the arm of the flesh. To put it in Andrae's verbiage, he had confidence that God was gonna see him through!

As King's Kids, our confidence is not a feeble "believeisim" or flimsy positive affirmation, it is a reality, firmly rooted and grounded (Paul's words again) on the integrity and power of the Word that will never pass away. I'm confident of that.

The real core of the natural consumer confidence problem is that, because the history track record is so not good, people are convinced in the opposite direction to believe that things won't improve. They are scared. Millions don't believe the natural, "sinking sand" foundation is good and they doubt the veracity and motives of the mouthpiece minions. Know this, without the God foundation, there is no sane way to expect the best.

We are Covenant People who worship and serve God and we have no confidence in the flesh ways of man. (See Phil. 3:3).

I got to see my old friend Andrae again on television a few months ago. I know he has faced many fights and challenges over the past 40 years but he was still banging away with the same message...Confidence, which is now more than just a song but a life reality. As he sang, I noticed the effects of hellish sickness attacks that have tried to silence his voice but he sings on. In spite of the many personal setbacks, the song continues. He's still telling us to have confidence, no matter what the case may be. I'm rooted in that promise and I think that is the good challenge for all of us.

Preach it, practice it and pass it on to a friend. And do it with confidence.

*Michael*

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**LifeGate**