“My World Need You” with Kirk Franklin, Sarah Reeves, Tasha Cobbs, and Tamela Mann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Aw_C7xL-0o>

“God’s Got Me” with Dexter Walker and the Zion Movement in OKC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SPiIVdS0vI>

“Jesus Will” with Anita Wilson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKc8TuPkCv4>

“Keep Doing What You Are Doing” with Anita Wilson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-45JVhRdAD0>

“It’s Done” with Anita Wilson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddrA_PvMy-0>

“God is Great! (Leap)” with David Daughtry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiYfZlCvA-g>

“Better” with Hezekiah Walker (official video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nrcZQliOGI>

“Go Get It” with Mary Mary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADGnIi9KrLQ>

“Made a Way” with Travis Greene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDnrYaDPcig>

“God Favored Me” with Hezekiah Walker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeZvzX218qk>

“I Believe” with Jonathan Nelson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDLByAnQ93Q>

“It’s Alright, It’s OK” with Shirley Caesar and Anthony Hamilton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjpkx7p_Mrg>

“I’ll Go, I’ll Run” with Dexter Walker and the Zion Movement in OKC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWhnWGsH2OA>

“Put a Praise on It” with Tasha Cobbs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pX0BJ7kgMfU>

“Show Me Your Face” with William McDowell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTXlqgNAYXA>

**Finding Our Confidence;**

**Finding Our Confidence in God’s Face**

***Numbers 13-14; Psalm 105-106; 1 Chronicles 13-16***

 Confidence! We feel it when we read about Caleb’s encouragement to go into the land God promised the Israelites. *Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it, Numbers 13:30.*  This week’s Bible Study looks at how to live in that confidence as we all step into God’s promises for our lives.

 There is a deep irony about confidence. Confidence is there when we are doing great things. But confidence is not the cause of us doing great things.

You might remember the day when you learned this. I remember one of those days. I was in high school at a statewide science fair. I left home with some of the best confidence I ever had but left the fair with nothing. My confidence had nothing to do with my success. But the confident months and months of more work that other students put into some awesome science projects did make a difference in their work.

I think that we also see this in the Biblical text when the ten men who spied with Caleb *brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched, Numbers 13:32.* One of the things they said was: *“[T]here we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight,” Numbers 13:33.* The spies concluded that because they saw themselves as grasshoppers, others saw them as grasshoppers. Were they right that their own assessment of themselves caused them to be seen that way?

There are some people and some sermons who have argued that the spies’ lack of self-confidence diminished them. And sometimes I have agreed.

But I would like to suggest that we don’t have that much power over our lives. You can fail yourself, cut yourself, curse yourself, and try to kill yourself. But there are some people who will still see you for the great person that you are. There is still God who sees you as the great person that God made you.

What seems to be more important for the confidence of the Israelites in this passage is not what the Israelites think of themselves. What seems to be more important to the confidence of the Israelites is whom they keep their focus on.

Listen to Caleb again: *“Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it,” Numbers 13:30b.* Caleb was not focused on any of the people or any particular nation of people in the land of Canaan. Caleb just spoke of “it”: the general project of overcoming opposition to obtaining God’s promises.

On the other hand, the ten spies with the evil report spoke of seeing the giants of Anak and thinking about their heritage of coming from giants. They said, *“[T]here we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants:…” Numbers 13:33a.* They said, *“[T]he land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature,” Numbers 13:32b.*

The ten spies were focused on the people that frightened them. But Caleb was focused on God and the difference that God’s favor could make in his life. Joshia and Caleb said, *“If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey,” Numbers 14:8.*

Seeking God’s face determines how much confidence we will have about what God has for us. Seeking God’s face turns us into heroes and sheroes and helps us to overcome fear and our enemies.

*Psalm 105* was an epic retelling of how God delivered His people from generation to generation to walk into the promises of Canaan. The Psalm started off by saying, *1 O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.*

*2 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.*

*3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.*

*4 Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore, Psalm 105:1-4.*

Sing songs unto God! Seek the Lord, and His strength! Seek God’s face! Doing this is what defines us and our confidence.

We become whom we focus upon. Consider what happened when Moses was with God on Mount Sinai, and the Israelites worshipped a golden calf. They became like livestock. *Psalm 106:19-22* said, *19 They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image. 20 Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass. 21 They forgat God their savior, which had done great things in Egypt; 22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red Sea.*

The ten spies similarly focused the Israelites’ attention on their enemies whom they accused of eating up their own people, *Numbers 13:32.* Then the first thing that the people did when Joshua and Caleb told them to seek God and live without fear was to try to kill Joshua and Caleb. *[A]ll the congregation bade stone them with stones, Numbers 14:9.* The Israelites became who they accused their enemies of being. We are who place our hearts upon.

If we would be strong; if we would be confident; if we would be loving, we must seek God’s face and focus on His delight in who we are.

There were some specific contexts for *Psalm 105.* This was not just a church song that people sang on worship days. *1 Chronicles* recorded the saga of David recovering the Ark of the Covenant for the Israelites. He said to the congregation of Israelites gathered before him: *“[Let] us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul.” And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people, 1 Chronicles 12:3-4.*

Then, when David and the Israelites defeated the Philistines and brought the Ark to Jerusalem, David *dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine.*

*4 And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord, and to record, and to thank and praise the Lord God of Israel:*

*5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattihiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obededom: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals;*

*6 Benaiah also and Hahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God.*

*7 Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the Lord into the hand of Asaph and his brethren.*

*8 Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.*

*9 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.*

*10 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.*

*11 Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually, 1 Chronicles 16:3-11.*

There was a specific context for David seeking God’s face and telling the story of his people in *Psalm 105.* And I dare to say that there is a specific context for *Psalm 105* and seeking God’s face in each of our lives today. *11 Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually. 12 Remember his marvelous woks that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth, 1 Chronicles 16:11-12*

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the Lord, Psalm 106:48.*

Praise ye the Lord who has great things in store for you!

Tobias Pinckney at Powered to Witness University, 8/21/16

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