



Confidence to 'Go For It'

Pastor Daren L. Barron | December 24, 2023

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John 5:14-15 Amplified Bible

14 This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. 15 And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.

1 John 13-15 The Message

13-15 My purpose in writing is simply this: that you who believe in God's Son will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life, **the reality and not the illusion**. And how bold and free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he's listening. And if we're confident that he's listening, we know that what we've asked for is as good as ours.

The challenges of Going for It

- **Fear of Failure:** The fear of not succeeding can be a significant barrier. It might prevent individuals from taking risks or trying new things, especially if exposed to failure.
- **Uncertainty:** The unknown can be intimidating. Lack of clarity about the future or the outcome of one's actions can be a source of stress leading to non-action.
- **Procrastination:** Delaying action or putting off tasks is a common challenge. Overcoming procrastination is crucial for making progress.
- **Lack of Resources:** Insufficient time, staff, money, or other resources can be a practical obstacle. Some goals may require a significant investment of resources.
- **Lack of Motivation:** Sustaining motivation over the long term can be difficult. Maintaining enthusiasm and momentum is crucial for success.
- **Outside Opinions:** Concerns about what others might think or say can be a significant challenge. The fear of judgment or criticism can hold people back.
- **Overcoming Comfort Zones:** Stepping out of one's comfort zone is often necessary for growth. However, it can be uncomfortable and challenging.
- **Setbacks and Obstacles:** Unexpected challenges and setbacks are part of any journey. The ability to adapt and persevere is crucial.
- **Self-Doubt:** Doubting one's abilities or questioning whether the goal is achievable can be a significant challenge. We all learn as we GO, and as we go we grow.

- **Balancing Priorities:** Trying to achieve a goal while balancing other responsibilities and priorities can be challenging. Time management and prioritization are key skills.

Be very clear about who your real guide is; whoever has control of your heart has control over you.

- Is it going to be Holy Spirit or spirit of the world?

Proverbs 3:1-7 New International Version

1 **My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,** 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. 5 **Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;** 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 **Do not be wise in your own eyes;** fear the Lord and shun evil.

Proverbs 4:23 New Living Translation

Guard your heart above all else for it determines the course of your life.

When you know who your real guide is, Pray for guidance

Proverbs 28:26 Amplified Bible

He who trusts confidently in his own heart is a [dull, thickheaded] fool, But he who walks in [skillful and godly] wisdom will be rescued.

James 1:5 Amplified Bible

If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide them through a decision or circumstance], they are to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to them.

- Don't just depend upon your opinion or intuition. None of us are 100 percent right all the time. Often intuition leads us to the wrong decision. As James 1:5 tells us, we need to ask God for wisdom to make the right decisions.

Ask for advice

Proverbs 24:6 Amplified Bible

For by wise guidance you can wage your war, And in an abundance of [wise] counselors there is victory and safety.

- Talk to someone who has taken a similar risk. It's good to learn from experience, but it's even better to learn from the experience of others. You don't need to make all the mistakes on your own. You simply don't have time. Review a concept called best practices.
- In this step, learn to ask good questions. Be prepared to write down those questions when you think about them, so you can ask them when the opportunity comes. One of the greatest blessings of a mentor is to discover a sincere mentee.

Get the facts; know the Truth!

Proverbs 4:7 Amplified Bible

"The beginning of wisdom is: Get [skillful and godly] wisdom [it is preeminent]! And with all your acquiring, get understanding [actively seek spiritual discernment, mature comprehension, and logical interpretation].

- Get all the information you can to help you make the right choice. Read a book, take a class, watch a seminar, or talk to an expert. Knowledge matters more than enthusiasm. Uneducated enthusiasm typically produces a non-delivered expectation.
- Study the difference between facts and truth.

John 14:6 New International Version

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Set your goals - You can't chase two rabbits at the same time. You must choose what goal to pursue! You don't have time to do everything. Pick what you want to focus on and do it.

Setting goals helps you avoid unwanted distractions

James 1:5-8 New Living Translation

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. **Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.** 7 **Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.** 8 **Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.**

- Never take risks just to prove yourself. Make sure you have a clear-cut purpose for every risk. Be like the trapeze artist: Don't let go of what you're holding onto until you know what you want to reach for. You don't need to have the goal within reach, but you need to know what that goal is.

Count the Cost

Luke 14:27-33 English Standard Version

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For **which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost**, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 **So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.**

Count the Cost: EVERYTHING!

Proverbs 4:7-9 New International Version

7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. **Though it cost all you have, get understanding.** 8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. 9 She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown."

Plan for Problems

- You will encounter problems. Something will go wrong. Planning for those problems means you will meet them head on. Looking ahead for potential problems isn't being negative, it's being proactive.

John 16:33 Amplified Bible

I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. **In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration**; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. **[I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]**

- God did not give me problems to worry over them...He gave me problems to solve them!

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 Amplified Bible

12 Therefore let the one who thinks he stands firm [immune to temptation, being overconfident and self-righteous], take care that he does not fall [into sin and condemnation]. 13 No temptation [regardless of its source] has overtaken or enticed you that is not common to human experience [nor is any temptation unusual or beyond human resistance]; but **God is faithful [to His word—He is compassionate and trustworthy], and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability [to resist], but along with the temptation He [has in the past and is now and] will [always] provide**

the way out as well, so that you will be able to endure it [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy].

Understand how your emotions (fear, happy, sad, angry, excitement) work

- Use your emotions, don't let your emotions use you!

2 Corinthians 5:7 Amplified Bible

for we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises]—

- The experience of emotions can be great or they can be terrible. Emotions can inspire the best song, painting or poem; elevate athletes, inspire creativity for inventions or simply do your best work. However emotions can do the opposite as well; crush dreams, destroy relationships and steal your joy. When making decisions it is imperative that you use your emotions (as fuel) and not allow your emotions to use you.
- Face your fears (Proverbs 14:26). Most of us—particularly leaders—don't want to admit we're afraid. We believe it makes us weak. But fear means you're alive. It's a warning light. Only fools are never afraid.
- Only God can help you face your fears. You must do what you fear. You can't cope with fear any other way. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is moving ahead despite your fear.

Be Still

Psalm 4:4 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Be angry [or stand in awe] and sin not; commune with your own hearts upon your beds and **be still** [Remember His Word, Reflect on your sin, Repent of your rebellion and Recognize His Grace] (sorry for the things you say in your hearts). Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

- This is an evening prayer, given by David in a distressing situation. Night often magnifies our problems, but it also provides time to reflect. When people are causing us trouble, this verse counsels to be angry and sin not. Instead, while lying awake, we should look deep within our own heart. What are our temptations and struggles? Where do we need to trust and surrender more? The call to be still is a call to be silent and examine our own heart before God.

Be Still so I can BE STILL and Know

Psalm 46:10 Amplified Bible

"Be still and know (recognize, understand) that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth."

- What does it mean to be still and know that God is God? To dig deeper into that verse to see what it's really saying, I'm going to have to bust out some Hebrew — The Hebrew word that's used here for the phrase "be still" is the word *râphâh*... It means "to hang limp, sink down, be feeble." That is much different than what we usually take the phrase "be still" to mean. I don't know about you, but whenever I have heard that verse in the past, I thought it meant to sit perfectly still, to be quiet, to try to meditate---all of which are really good things that we should do; **it is not incorrect it is just incomplete.** Now, in this context, *râphâh* means to let yourself sink, to let go of your rigidity, to allow yourself to be weak, to throw off all of the pretenses of strength and become "feeble." **It's more than just being quiet and still, it's complete surrender, it's giving God all of you.** And what happens when we do this? We experience knowledge of God. And by "knowledge" I mean the Hebrew word *yâda*, which is the word used here, and which means "to have intimate knowledge." We allow God to intercourse with us, supplying strength to our weak areas. Trusting Him to do what we on our own cannot do.

The challenges of Going for It

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 Easy-to-Read Version

7 We have this treasure from God, but we are only like clay jars that hold the treasure. This is to show that the amazing power we have is from God, not from us. 8 We have troubles all around us, but we are not defeated. We often don't know what to do, but we don't give up. 9 We are persecuted, but God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed. 10 So we constantly experience the death of Jesus in our own bodies, but this is so that the life of Jesus can also be seen in our bodies.

- Overcoming these challenges often requires a combination of prayer, self-reflection, determination, resilience, and sometimes seeking support from others. It's important to recognize that facing challenges is a natural part of the process, and learning from them can contribute to personal and professional growth.