

# Becoming Who God Is Forming



## Grow In Confidence | Ephesians 3:1-13

### Confidence Comes From Knowing Your Calling (Ephesians 3:1-6)

1. Paul describes himself as a "prisoner of Christ Jesus." How does that perspective reshape how he sees his situation? Compare: Philippians 1:12-14, 2 Timothy 1:8. What does it mean that Paul's circumstances did not define him, but his calling did? How might that apply to your life right now? Where do you tend to derive your identity-from circumstances or from God's calling?

### Confidence Grows Through Grace, Not Ability (Ephesians 3:7-8)

2. Paul says he is "less than the least," yet he carries a significant calling. How do humility and confidence coexist here? Why is confidence based on ability fragile? Compare: 2 Corinthians 3:5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. What does it practically look like to rely on God's grace instead of your own strength? Where do feelings of inadequacy hold you back from stepping into what God may be calling you to?

### Confidence Is Anchored in God's Eternal Purpose (Ephesians 3:9-11)

3. How does knowing that your life is part of God's eternal plan change the way you view everyday struggles? Paul points to God's "eternal purpose accomplished in Christ." What does this reveal about God's sovereignty? Compare: Romans 8:28-30, Isaiah 46:9-10. Can you think of a time when a difficulty later proved to have purpose? How might your perspective shift if you saw challenges as "instruments" rather than interruptions?

### Confidence Leads to Freedom & Reframes Suffering (Ephesians 3:12-13)

4. What does it mean to "approach God with freedom and confidence"? How is this different from arrogance or self-confidence? Compare: Hebrews 4:14-16, Romans 5:1-2. In what areas of your spiritual life do you lack boldness (prayer, obedience, sharing faith)? What would change if you fully believed you had direct access to God?
5. Paul tells them not to be discouraged by his suffering. Why might suffering discourage believers? How does Paul reinterpret suffering in this passage? Compare: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7. What is the difference between seeing suffering as meaningless vs. purposeful? How have you seen God use hardship for growth or good in your life?
6. Where is your confidence currently rooted-in circumstances, abilities, others' opinions, or Christ? Which of the four/five themes in this passage do you most need to grow in right now? What is one practical step you can take this week to anchor your confidence more deeply in God?



What did you discover about God in this passage?  
What did you discover about people in this passage?  
How will you commit to obey this passage this week?  
With whom will you share what you have learned?

