CONFIDENCE IS FAITH

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Believing in oneself is what makes people ultimately succeed in their undertakings. One who does not possess the confidence to do anything can not hope to find fulfillment. Successful individuals always have a healthy dose of self-confidence, which allows them to tackle even the most difficult challenges in the most trying situations. Having self-confidence in correct proportions is great, but having loads of it can sometimes lead to a loudly overbearing attitude that can turn other people off.

Believing in others is what makes great relationships. Putting other people down or finding too many imperfections in others and pointing them out way too often can alienate us from others. People will perceive us as being too narrow-minded or too hard to please. We never build relationships with constant fault-finding. We end up with no one on our side when the going gets tough. Sincere affirmation and praise is the key, but too much for too little is just plain apple-polishing. We wouldn't want to be called sycophants, would we?

Believing in God helps us have a proper perspective in life. Having something to hold on to is much better than having nothing at all. Faith in God is what helps people stay grounded. It reminds us that there's definitely a POWER much greater than ours. This Divine Being is what makes us move towards perfection in His eyes. It gives us a conscience to tell us when we are overstepping the boundaries of His great love and understanding. I would like to believe that my faith in a Divine Power gives me a clearer insight into everything I say and do. Without Him to hold me in faith, what have I got left? The people I love will always be there, but God has always been there right from the start.

Believing in anything or anybody is the embodiment of faith. Faith keeps us going, no matter what. This is true with self-confidence, confidence in others, and confidence in Divine Providence.

If we lose self-confidence, we lose the drive to succeed. We feel reluctant to do what we must. Having self-confidence genuinely matters, most especially in our social interactions. A too-shy job applicant can be perceived as not being fit for the job. Not believing in one's abilities can be a hindrance to career advancement and social ties.

Losing faith in God can often compel us to do things which may be totally hurtful to God and ourselves. We must at least have a Higher Power we can always hold on to.

Not having belief in others makes us hurtful. It eventually leaves us unfeeling and unsympathetic. We must always endeavor to encourage those who fall and motivate them to strive harder. Nobody loves faultfinders and rude perfectionists. In all our dealings, we must always be true.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why is confidence easily equated to faith?
2. What made you choose your religion? Can religion truly save us?
3. Is self-confidence easy to get back once it's broken? Why or why not? Cite specific examples, if you must.
4. Will you be able to associate well with someone who finds fault constantly? Elaborate on your answer.
5. Talk about an instance when you lost self confidence, faith in your religion, or faith in other people. How did you deal with that specific situation?