

Qualifications of Deacons

By Mark Mayberry
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1 Timothy 3:13 ... 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

1 Timothy 3:13 ... 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

1 Timothy 3:13 ... 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (NASB)

For they that have used the office of a deacon well (KJV); For those who have served well as deacons (NKJV & NASB)

The term “office” is used twice in the KJV (1 Tim. 3:10, 13). The deaconship is not simply an honorary position. Like the eldership, the office of a deacon is a place of work, service and responsibility. However, what is the work of deacons? Deacons assist the elders in carrying out the work of the church. By not being bogged down with important but incidental matters, an eldership can focus on the spiritual care of the local congregation (Acts 6:1-7; 20:28-32; Rom. 12:3-8; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4). Specific responsibilities might include maintenance on the church building, ordering classroom material and tracts, taking care of the Lord’s Table, serving as treasurer, passing out Visitors Cards, arranging for the monthly schedule of services, carrying out benevolent work, providing food/care for the sick and needy, looking after the physical needs of those who are supported by the church, etc.

1 Timothy 3:10 ... 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. (KJV)

1 Timothy 3:10 ... 10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. (NASB)

1 Timothy 3:13 ... 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

1 Timothy 3:13 ... 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (NASB)

Acts 6:1-7 ... 1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 “Therefore, brethren, select from

among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them. 7 The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. (NASB)

Acts 20:28-32 ... 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (NASB)

Romans 12:3-8 ... 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (NASB)

Hebrews 13:17 ... 17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. (NASB)

1 Peter 5:1-4 ... 1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (NASB)

Purchase to themselves a good degree (KJV); Obtain for themselves a good standing (NKJV); Obtain for themselves a high standing (NASB)

The Greek adverb *kalōs*, occurring 37x in the NT, refers to that which is done “well.” BDAG say it (1) pertains to meeting relatively high standards of excellence or expectation, fitly, appropriately, in the right way, splendidly; (2) pertains to meeting expectations of personal excellence, commendably, in a manner free from objection; (3) pertains to being of advantage, in a manner that is beneficial/acceptable, well; (4) pertains to being in accord w. a standard, rightly, correctly...”

Jesus Christ does all things well (Mark 7:37), including His actions (Matt. 12:12), His answers (Mark 12:28, 32; Luke 20:39; John 4:17; 18:23), and His assertions (John 13:13).

*Mark 7:37 ... 37 They were utterly astonished, saying, “He has done all things ***well**; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.” (NASB)*

*Matthew 12:12 ... 12 “How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do ***good** on the Sabbath.” (NASB)*

*Mark 12:28 ... 28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them ***well**, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” (NASB)*

*Mark 12:32 ... 32 The scribe said to Him, “***Right**, Teacher; You have truly stated that He is One, and there is no one else besides Him; (NASB)*

*Luke 20:39 ... 39 Some of the scribes answered and said, “Teacher, You have spoken ***well**.” (NASB)*

*John 4:17 ... 17 The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have ***correctly** said, ‘I have no husband’; (NASB)*

*John 18:23 ... 23 Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if ***rightly**, why do you strike Me?” (NASB)*

*John 13:13 ... 13 “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are ***right**, for so I am. (NASB)*

In like manner, disciples must do good (Luke 6:27), in conduct (Acts 25:10; Heb. 13:18), in decisions (1 Cor. 7:37, 38), in service (3 John 6), in sharing (Phil. 4:14), in submission (Luke 6:47-48), and in the giving and receiving of instruction (Acts 10:33; 2 Pet. 1:19).

*Luke 6:27-28 ... 27 “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do ***good** to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (NASB)*

*Acts 25:10 ... 10 But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also very ***well** know. (NASB)*

*Hebrews 13:18 ... 18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves ***honorably** in all things. (NASB)*

*1 Corinthians 7:37 ... 37 But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin daughter, he will do ***well**. (NASB)*

*1 Corinthians 7:38 ... 38 So then both he who gives his own virgin daughter in marriage does ***well**, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better. (NASB)*

*3 John 6 ... 6 and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do ***well** to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. (NASB)*

*Philippians 4:14 ... 14 Nevertheless, you have done ***well** to share with me in my affliction. (NASB)*

*Luke 6:47-48 ... 47 “Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been ***well** built. (NASB)*

*Acts 10:33 ... 33 “So I sent for you immediately, and you have been ***kind *enough** to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” (NASB)*

*2 Peter 1:19 ... 19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do ***well** to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. (NASB)*

This term is similarly descriptive of elders and deacons (1 Tim. 3:4, 12, 13, 17).

*1 Timothy 3:4 ... 4 He must be one who manages his own household ***well**, keeping his children under control with all dignity (NASB)*

*1 Timothy 3:12 ... 12 Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and ***good** managers of their children and their own households. (NASB)*

*1 Timothy 3:13 ... 13 For those who have served ***well** as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (NASB)*

*1 Timothy 5:17 ... 17 The elders who rule ***well** are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. (NASB)*

The Greek word *bathmos*, translated “degree” (KJV) or “standing” (NASB), occurs only here. Thomas defines it as “a step, degree” [898]. BDAG say it refers to “(1) a structured rest for the foot marking a stage in ascending or descending, step; (2) a stage in intellectual or spiritual progress.”

The Christian life should be one of development, growth and progress (Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 16:10-13; 19:11-27; Phil. 3:13-16; Heb. 6:1-3).

Matthew 25:14-30 ... 14 "For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 "To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. 16 "Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. 17 "In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. 18 "But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 "Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 "The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' 21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 "Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.' 23 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 "And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. 25 'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.' 26 "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. 27 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. 28 'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.' 29 "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 30 "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (NASB)

Luke 16:10-13 ... 10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. 11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? 12 "And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? 13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." (NASB)

Luke 19:11-27 ... 11 While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. 12 So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. 13 "And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.' 14 "But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' 15 "When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might

know what business they had done. 16 “The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ 17 “And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’ 18 “The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ 19 “And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ 20 “Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’ 22 “He said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? 23 ‘Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ 24 “Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ 25 “And they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas already.’ 26 “I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 27 “But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.” (NASB)

Philippians 3:13-16 ... 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained. (NASB)

Hebrews 6:1-3 ... 1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do, if God permits. (NASB)

And great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus (KJV & NKJV); and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus (NASB).

The Greek adjective *polus*, translated “great,” occurs frequently, and is quantitative, signifying “much, many” [Thomas 4183].

The Greek word *parrēsia*, translated “boldness” (KJV) or “confidence” (NASB), occurs 31x in the NT. Thomas defines it as “freedom of speech, confidence” [3954]. BDAG say it describes “(1) a use of speech that conceals nothing and passes over nothing, outspokenness, frankness, plainness; (2) ‘Openness’ sometimes develops into openness to the public, before whom speaking and actions take place; (3) a state of boldness and confidence, courage, confidence, boldness, fearlessness, esp. in the presence of persons of high rank; (a) in association with humans; (b) in relation to God.”

This word occurs 31x in the NT (Mark 8:32; John 7:4, 13, 26; 10:24; 11:14, 54; 16:25, 29; 18:20; Acts 2:29; 4:13, 29, 31; 28:31; 2 Cor. 3:12; 7:4; Eph. 3:12; 6:19; Phil. 1:20; Col. 2:15; 1 Tim. 3:13; Phile. 8; Heb. 3:6; 4:16; 10:19, 35; 1 John 2:28; 3:21; 4:17; 5:14).

*Mark 8:32 ... 32 And He was stating the matter ***plainly**. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. (NASB)*

*John 7:4 ... 4 “For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known ***publicly**. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” (NASB)*

*John 7:13 ... 13 Yet no one was speaking ***openly** of Him for fear of the Jews. (NASB)*

*John 7:26 ... 26 “Look, He is speaking ***publicly**, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? (NASB)*

*John 10:24 ... 24 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us ***plainly**.” (NASB)*

*John 11:14 ... 14 So Jesus then said to them ***plainly**, “Lazarus is dead, (NASB)*

*John 11:54 ... 54 Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk ***publicly** among the Jews, but went away from there to the country near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples. (NASB)*

*John 16:25 ... 25 “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you ***plainly** of the Father. (NASB)*

*John 16:29 ... 29 His disciples said, “Lo, now You are speaking ***plainly** and are not using a figure of speech. (NASB)*

*John 18:20 ... 20 Jesus answered him, “I have spoken ***openly** to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. (NASB)*

*Acts 2:29 ... 29 “Brethren, I may ***confidently** say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (NASB)*

*Acts 4:13 ... 13 Now as they observed the ***confidence** of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. (NASB)*

*Acts 4:29 ... 29 “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all ***confidence**, (NASB)*

*Acts 4:31 ... 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with ***boldness**. (NASB)*

*Acts 28:31 ... 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all ***openness**, unhindered. (NASB)*

*2 Corinthians 3:12 ... 12 Therefore having such a hope, we use great ***boldness** in our ***speech**, (NASB)*

*2 Corinthians 7:4 ... 4 Great is my ***confidence** in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction. (NASB)*

*Ephesians 3:12 ... 12 in whom we have ***boldness** and confident access through faith in Him. (NASB)*

*Ephesians 6:19 ... 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with ***boldness** the mystery of the gospel, (NASB)*

*Philippians 1:20 ... 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all ***boldness**, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. (NASB)*

*Colossians 2:15 ... 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a ***public** display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (NASB)*

*1 Timothy 3:13 ... 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great ***confidence** in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (NASB)*

*Philemon 8 ... 8 Therefore, though I have enough ***confidence** in Christ to order you to do what is proper, (NASB)*

*Hebrews 3:6 ... 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our ***confidence** and the boast of our hope firm until the end. (NASB)*

*Hebrews 4:16 ... 16 Therefore let us draw near with ***confidence** to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NASB)*

*Hebrews 10:19 ... 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have ***confidence** to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, (NASB)*

*Hebrews 10:35 ... 35 Therefore, do not throw away your ***confidence**, which has a great reward. (NASB)*

*1 John 2:28 ... 28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have ***confidence** and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. (NASB)*

*1 John 3:21 ... 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have ***confidence** before God; (NASB)*

*1 John 4:17 ... 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have ***confidence** in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. (NASB)*

*1 John 5:14 ... 14 This is the ***confidence** which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (NASB)*

This word may refer to plainness of speech (Mark 8:32; John 10:24; 11:14; 16:25, 29).

*Mark 8:32 ... 32 And He was stating the matter ***plainly**. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. (NASB)*

*John 10:24 ... 24 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us ***plainly**.” (NASB)*

*John 11:14 ... 14 So Jesus then said to them ***plainly**, “Lazarus is dead, (NASB)*

*John 16:25 ... 25 “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you ***plainly** of the Father. (NASB)*

*John 16:29 ... 29 His disciples said, “Lo, now You are speaking ***plainly** and are not using a figure of speech. (NASB)*

It may also identify that which is done in public (John 7:4, 13, 26; 11:54; 18:20; Acts 28:31; Col. 2:15).

*John 7:4 ... 4 “For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known ***publicly**. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” (NASB)*

*John 7:13 ... 13 Yet no one was speaking ***openly** of Him for fear of the Jews. (NASB)*

*John 7:26 ... 26 “Look, He is speaking ***publicly**, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? (NASB)*

*John 11:54 ... 54 Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk ***publicly** among the Jews, but went away from there to the country near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples. (NASB)*

*John 18:20 ... 20 Jesus answered him, “I have spoken ***openly** to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. (NASB)*

*Acts 28:31 ... 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all ***openness**, unhindered. (NASB)*

*Colossians 2:15 ... 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a ***public** display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (NASB)*

We must have confidence in preaching (Acts 2:29-33; 4:8-13, 29-31; 2 Cor. 3:12; Eph. 6:18-20).

*Acts 2:29-33 ... 29 “Brethren, I may ***confidently** say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 “And so,*

because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. 32 “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. (NASB)

*Acts 4:8-13 ... 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people, 9 if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. 11 “He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. 12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” 13 Now as they observed the ***confidence** of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. (NASB)*

*Acts 4:29-31 ... 29 “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all ***confidence**, 30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with ***boldness**. (NASB)*

*2 Corinthians 3:12 ... 12 Therefore having such a hope, we use great ***boldness** in our ***speech**, (NASB)*

*Ephesians 6:18-20 ... 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with ***boldness** the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (NASB)*

We must have confidence in Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:11-13; Heb. 4:16).

*Ephesians 3:11-13 ... 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have ***boldness** and confident access through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory. (NASB)*

*Hebrews 4:16 ... 16 Therefore let us draw near with ***confidence** to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NASB)*

We must have confidence in prayer (1 John 3:21-22; 5:14-15).

*1 John 3:21-22 ... 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have ***confidence** before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. (NASB)*

*1 John 5:14-15 ... 14 This is the ***confidence** which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. (NASB)*

We should have confidence in fellow-Christians (2 Cor. 7:2-4; Phile. 8-16; 1 Tim. 3:13). Influence is a by-product of character. Fidelity to their office, however humble may be their duties, will secure for deacons high respect and admiration in the church. This is their reward.

*2 Corinthians 7:2-4 ... 2 Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. 3 I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. 4 Great is my ***confidence** in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction. (NASB)*

*Philemon 8-16 ... 8 Therefore, though I have enough ***confidence** in Christ to order you to do what is proper, 9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— 10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment, 11 who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me. 12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart, 13 whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel; 14 but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will. 15 For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, 16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. (NASB)*

*1 Timothy 3:13 ... 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great ***confidence** in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (NASB)*

Nonetheless, let us recognize the conditional nature of such confidence (Heb. 3:5-6; 10:19-25, 35-39).

*Hebrews 3:5-6 ... 5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our ***confidence** and the boast of our hope firm until the end. (NASB)*

*Hebrews 10:19-25 ... 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have ***confidence** to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let*

us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (NASB)

*Hebrews 10:35-39 ... 35 Therefore, do not throw away your ***confidence**, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. 38 But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul. (NASB)*

Do you have confidence in living and dying (Phil. 1:19-26; 1 John 2:28; 4:17)?

*Philippians 1:19-26 ... 19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all ***boldness**, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again. (NASB)*

*1 John 2:28 ... 28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have ***confidence** and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. (NASB)*

*1 John 4:17 ... 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have ***confidence** in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. (NASB)*