

## *Self-confident James*

**The following nine traits and behaviors are clues to the presence of the Self-confident personality style. A person who has a strong Self-confident tendency will demonstrate more of these behaviors more intensely than someone who has less of this style.**

1. **Self-regard:** Self-confident individuals believe in themselves and in their abilities. They have no doubt that they are unique and special, and that there is a reason for their being on this planet.
2. **The Red Carpet:** They expect others to treat them well as all times.
3. **Ambition:** Self-confident people are unabashedly open about their aspirations and possibilities. They energetically and effectively sell themselves, their goals, their projects, and their ideas.
4. **Politics:** They are able to take advantage of the strengths and abilities of other people in order to achieve their goals, and they are shrewd in their dealings with others.
5. **Competition:** They are able competitors, they love getting to the top, and they enjoy staying there.
6. **Stature:** They identify with people of high rank and status.
7. **Dreams:** Self-confident individuals are able to visualize themselves as the hero, the star, the best in their role, or the most accomplished in their field.
8. **Self-awareness:** these individuals have a keen awareness of their own thoughts and feelings and their overall inner state of being.
9. **Poise:** People with Self-confident personality style accept compliments, praise, and admiration gracefully and with self-possession.

### **The Self-confident James in Action**

People with this personality style have a real talent for leadership and a genuine need to be in charge. They thrive when they are in a position to influence others, they're innately competitive, and they love status, image, and power. They like to be the standouts on the team or in the family, the attention-getters, the shining lights, and the stars. They are extroverted and good at politics. They make excellent managers, skilled at delegating and building a motivated team, and they reward loyalty. But they do not appreciate competition from their subordinates or attempts to share the limelight. And they hate being criticized, even if they know the person has a point. Outwardly it may not seem to affect them, but inwardly they react powerfully.

They are extremely good at accepting love and admiration, but they tend to be unaware of other people's needs. They are so engaged in their own agenda that they ignore what is happening to the people around them. That doesn't mean, however, that they have no conscience. Their conscience is political. If they understand that they cannot remain on top without being more attentive and caring to those below them, then they will make a real effort to be more considerate. In their personal lives, this apparent lack of attention to others can carry big consequences and they must be reminded from time to time that their

spouse or children have individual needs and feelings that may be quite different from their own—for Self-confident people are prone to believe that the people they care about are just like them.

It often surprises people in their lives that Self-confident individuals, who may frequently appear selfish and oblivious to them, take rejection very hard. As in their work life, however, the loss of position and importance, once they become aware of it, will often motivate them to work on their relationship before it's too late.

Overall, this can be a very strong style, marking individuals who believe that they have a purpose on the planet, a reason for being, and the strength to discover it. They tend to be successful, because they weather the frustrations and doubts that make other people quit along the way.

### **Issues of the Self-confident James**

Without a doubt pride is the primary and lasting issue of the Self-confident James. The need to be recognized or acknowledged as a special or even unique person can be their undoing. The need to surround themselves with special and other successful people can also contribute to their lack of sensitivity to those they cannot use and therefore do not need, seemingly making them insensitive to those that have no political value for them. Arrogance and entitlement are two character traits they must watch for and guard against seeping into their personality so they don't become or appear to become snobbish or "uppity".

### **Scripture for the Self-confident James**

Since they are fighters by nature and Peter is the ultimate fighter, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter has a lot to say to the Self-confident James. Although they are fighters, they are not confronters and tend to fight by control and controlling the environment rather than head to head confrontation since they don't like conflict. Therefore the passage in scripture that seems to fit them the best is found in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:1-7 where he writes, <sup>1</sup>And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share his glory and his honor when he returns. As a fellow elder, this is my appeal to you: <sup>2</sup>Care for the flock of God entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. <sup>3</sup>Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your good example. <sup>4</sup>And when the head Shepherd comes, your reward will be a never-ending share in his glory and honor.

<sup>5</sup>You younger men, accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for

"God sets himself against the proud,  
but he shows favor to the humble."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup>So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you. <sup>7</sup>Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you.

Here Peter is appealing to the fact that as leaders, which many Self-confident James are, they need to be more sensitive to those in their care for whom they are responsible. They need to see this as a labor of love under Christ's direction and not a drudgery to be borne.

In the process they also need to be careful they do it with a servant's heart as Christ came to serve and not with arrogance as one who is lording it over those in their care as being in any way more superior. If they do this God promises to reward their true humility by exalting them in his way and time.

## **Pride**

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### **WHY IS PRIDE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE “SEVEN DEADLY SINS” WHEN OTHER THINGS SEEM SO MUCH WORSE?**

#### **EZEKIEL 28:11-19**

The Bible seems to indicate that pride was the sin that resulted in Lucifer (Satan) being cast from heaven.

#### **PSALM 10:2-11**

Pride leads to ignoring God and a life of disobedience.

#### **2 TIMOTHY 3:2-5**

Pride can destroy relationships faster than almost anything else because it is always taking away from others. Pride strengthens your position at the expense of others. It is selfish.

#### **2 CHRONICLES 26:16-20**

An inflated estimation of our past successes leads to prideful behavior and, ultimately, judgment.

#### **OBADIAH 1:3**

Pride finds comfort in false security.

#### **1 CORINTHIANS 4:6-7**

Pride can infect our spiritual lives and divide the church.

#### **ACTS 12:22-23**

God hates pride and will judge it severely.

### **WHEN IS PRIDE HEALTHY AND APPROPRIATE?**

#### **ROMANS 15:17**

Paul was proud not of what he had accomplished but of what God had done through him.

#### **2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-13**

Like Paul, if we take pride in anything, we ought to take pride in the integrity and honesty of our ministry and life.

#### *Promise from God: Proverbs 16:18*

<sup>18</sup>Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

## **Self-Esteem**

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### **AM I REALLY IMPORTANT TO GOD?**

GENESIS 1:26-27; PSALM 8:3-8

God made us in his image or likeness, the first sign of the value he places on us. No other creature on earth is made in the image of God. The second sign of the value God places on us is that he placed people over all creatures on earth.

PSALM 139:13-16; JEREMIAH 1:5

God made us with great skill; he crafted us with loving care. He showed how much value he places on us by the way he made us.

PSALM 139:17

Almighty God thinks wonderful thoughts about us all the time. He looks inside of us and sees our real value.

PSALM 139:1-3, 6

God values you so much that he watches over you no matter where you are or what you are doing. This truly is wonderful, too wonderful to believe. But it tells you how special he thinks you are. God cares about everything we do because he loves us so much.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

God values you so much that he even allows your body to become a temple in which he lives. God does not need to live in you. He can live anywhere. But by choosing to live within you, he declares you his temple, his dwelling place. What a great value he places on you to do that!

GALATIANS 3:26; GALATIANS 4:7

God values you so much that he thinks of you as his child.

MATTHEW 28:20

God promises to be with us always; why would he want to be with us if he didn't value us?

## **HOW DO I DEVELOP A HEALTHY SELF-ESTEEM?**

ROMANS 12:3

Healthy self-esteem is an honest appraisal of ourselves, not too proud because of the gifts and abilities God has given us, yet not so self-effacing that we fail to use our gifts and abilities to their potential.

1 PETER 4:10

Giving actually increases our value, our self-worth, because it allows God to work more effectively through us.

*Promise from God: Matthew 10:29-31*

<sup>29</sup>Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. <sup>30</sup>And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows.

## **The Self-confident James' Role in God's Kingdom**

As leaders Self-confident James personality types have a significant role to play in God's kingdom frequently shepherding the flock in leadership positions. With leadership comes responsibility as well as the need for servant humility. Frequently Self-confident James personalities are not useful and even destructive to those they lead due to their over-confidence and even arrogance. True humility comes from God and enables the Self-confident James to be the leaders God intended them to be with their significance coming

directly from God not man. Unfortunately they frequently have to be humbled before they realize this and their place in the kingdom of God. If you would like to go further in understanding this personality type in scripture read the life of Joseph in the Old Testament. His life epitomizes the life of a self-confident. It is truly a story of riches to rags to riches.

## **Joseph (Jacob's Son)**

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As a youngster, Joseph was overconfident. His natural self-assurance, increased by being Jacob's favorite son and by knowing of God's designs on his life, was unbearable to his ten older brothers, who eventually conspired against him. But this self-assurance, molded by pain and combined with a personal knowledge of God, allowed him to survive and prosper where most would have failed. He added quiet wisdom to his confidence and won the hearts of everyone he met—Potiphar, the chief jailer, other prisoners, the king, and after many years, even those ten brothers.

Perhaps you can identify with one or more of these hardships Joseph experienced: He was betrayed and deserted by his family, exposed to sexual temptation, and punished for doing the right thing; he endured a long imprisonment and was forgotten by those he helped. As you read his story, note what Joseph did in each case. His positive response transformed each setback into a step forward. He didn't spend much time asking why. His approach was "What shall I do now?" Those who met Joseph were aware that wherever he went and whatever he did, God was with him. When you're facing a setback, the beginning of a Joseph-like attitude is to acknowledge that God is with you. There is nothing like his presence to shed new light on a dark situation.

### **STRENGTHS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- ◆ Rose in power from slave to ruler of Egypt
- ◆ Was known for his personal integrity
- ◆ Was a man of spiritual sensitivity
- ◆ Prepared a nation to survive a famine

### **WEAKNESS AND MISTAKE**

- ◆ His youthful pride caused friction with his brothers

### **LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE**

- ◆ What matters is not so much the events or circumstances of life, but your response to them
- ◆ With God's help, any situation can be used for good, even when others intend it for evil

### **VITAL STATISTICS**

- ◆ Where: Canaan, Egypt
- ◆ Occupation: Shepherd, slave, convict, ruler
- ◆ Relatives: Parents: Jacob and Rachel. Eleven brothers and one sister. Wife: Asenath. Sons: Manasseh and Ephraim

### **KEY VERSE**

"As they discussed who should be appointed for the job, Pharaoh said, 'Who could do it better than Joseph? For he is a man who is obviously filled with the spirit of God'" (Genesis 41:38).

*Joseph's story is told in Genesis 30—50. He is also mentioned in Hebrews 11:22.*