

## WALKING FOR CONFIDENCE

Chaplain Dr. Paul Kim  
National Chaplain, KWVA



I have walked 400 miles in six months. At the beginning of this journey, I faced several obstacles even before I could reach my first 100 miles. I struggled to keep myself from quitting countless times, as thoughts like, “this is too time consuming,” or “I have other things to do” would pop into my mind. I have to confess, I did not have much confidence in the beginning. But I gathered the self-discipline I needed to get out of the house and take that first step, the most difficult part of walking. After those first few steps, finishing my daily 3 miles would come easily.

A baby’s first steps are difficult to achieve and requires the help of someone’s hand. One step increases to a few steps. A few steps lead to several more, and so forth. I am sure it would not be easy for the baby to have the confidence to stand up without first holding someone’s hand. All of us had to develop such confidence to learn to walk, starting with baby steps.

We need to train and discipline ourselves in order to gain confidence in our field, no matter what our profession: athletes, musicians, health care professionals, students, law enforcement officers, military personnel, etc. Soldiers are trained to develop the confidence needed by not giving up or quitting. Airborne troopers are trained to jump from a high pole before their first jump off an airplane. It is the same with all other special operations troops, who must go through rigid training for a long period of time to develop enough confidence.

Spiritually speaking, Jesus spent three years giving his disciples “on-the-job training” in the real world, not simply teaching them through classroom lectures. Jesus told them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (Matthew 4:19).” However, in the course of being disciplined, Jesus’ followers made many mistakes and feared for their lives. But after receiving three years of training and being empowered with the Holy Spirit, they were bolder and had more confidence. The Bible says, “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).” To increase our confidence in life, we must go through training in our professions. We are not to give up until we achieve the ability to train others likewise. In the spiritual walk we are to spend time with the Lord Jesus in His word, prayer, and witnessing.

May God build confidence in you as you remain faithful and obedient to God for His glory. We all need four “-ships”: a) Lordship, b) Leadership, c) Fellowship, and d) Friendship in the church ministry to know what Church is.