

Living with Confidence  
By, Alan W. Goff

Most people are familiar with world-famous boxer Muhammad Ali, and his renowned trainer Angelo Dundee. What most people don't know is that just before every boxing match; Dundee would write a number on a small slip of paper and place it inside Ali's glove. That may sound like a strange thing to give a boxer right before a fight, but Dundee had a reason for what he did. The number that Dundee wrote on the slip of paper was the round in which he predicted Ali would knock out his opponent. Dundee was so confident in Ali's ability that he didn't just guess *whether or not* Ali would win, but *when* he would win – and Ali knew it.

I love that story because it shows the confidence Ali's trainer had in him, and it shows the positive effect it had on Ali. I believe confidence played a tremendous part in the champ's amazing success as one of the greatest boxers who ever lived. Dundee was certain of Ali's success, and the confidence that he instilled in his friend helped give Ali a champion's mentality.

In the same way, the One who created you is certain of your ability to succeed. After all, He placed it there. Even when you're not certain of the outcome, God has confidence in you. Let that sink down into your heart today – the God who holds the universe in the palm of His hand has faith in you. When you really embrace that truth, it will cause you to have a champion's mentality – a champion's confidence.

Do you think Muhammad Ali was ever afraid? Do you think that fear was ever a factor before he entered the ring to trade blows with the likes of Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier, or George Foreman? My guess would be yes. But I am certain that when he felt that little piece of paper in his glove, he knew without a doubt that the man who knew him best believed in him. That is when he pushed past his fear and marched towards his destiny. The little piece of paper Angelo Dundee planted inside Ali's glove may have done more to make Ali the legend he is today than most people will ever know.

You're likely not a professional boxer and neither am I, but if you look deep inside of yourself you will find that something has been placed in you by the One who knows you best. God knew you even before you were ever born. He knows your abilities better than anyone else, and He believes in you. When He created you, He planted inside of you His seeds of greatness. Everything you need in order to be successful in your relationships, on your job, and in every area of life is inside of you.

The fact is, if Muhammad Ali didn't know that little piece of paper was in his glove, it would have had no effect. Likewise, it is important that you recognize and understand what God has placed inside of you – seeds of strength, joy, peace, and His vision for your life. Once you understand this, you will be able to

push past your fears and uncertainties with confidence and move into your destiny.

When you think about it, the little note that Angelo Dundee placed in Ali's glove was really just a piece of paper with a number on it. It did nothing until it became a part of Ali's thinking. In much the same way, the seeds that God placed inside of you can lie dormant until they are planted in the soil of your mind. I encourage you to open your mind and heart and ask God to bring your seeds to fruition. When fear comes against you, His seed will spring to life and give you the confidence you need to push past that fear and into your destiny.