

Believe in Yourself

One of the primary characteristics of a good leader is belief in his or her ability to lead. In fact, people will not follow a leader who does not have confidence in himself or herself. Men and women are naturally attracted to those who convey confidence. For those of us who have the responsibility of directing others in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, this is an important principle to understand and practice.

An excellent example is provided in an incident that occurred in Russia during an attempted coup. Army tanks surrounded the government building that housed President Boris Yeltsin and his pro-democracy supporters. High-level military leaders had ordered the tank commander to open fire and kill Yeltsin.

As the army rolled into position, Yeltsin strode from the building, climbed up on a tank, looked the commander in the eye, and thanked him for coming over to the side of democracy. Later, the commander admitted that although they had not intended to go over to his side, Yeltsin had appeared so confident and commanding that the soldiers decided to join him.

John C. Maxwell, writer and speaker, describes confidence as “a characteristic of a positive attitude. The greatest achievers and leaders remain confident regardless of circumstances. Strong, confident leaders recognize and appreciate confidence in others. Confidence is not simply for show. Confidence empowers. Good leaders have the ability to instill within their people confidence in themselves (the leaders). Great leaders have the ability to instill within their people confidence in *themselves* (their people).”

Confidence – not in an arrogant, showy, all-about-me display, but in an assured, empowering, inspiring demeanor – can achieve remarkable results.

--Beecher Hunter