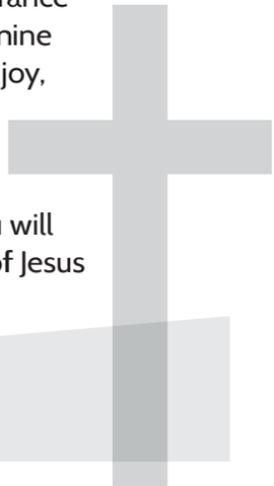




Presented to

on this, your confirmation day,

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:3-6*



Confirmed in **Christ**



Roy G. Gesch

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS

This edition published 2014 Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

Text © 1983, 1997 Concordia Publishing House

Cover and title page art: © Shutterstock, Inc.

Interior art: © iStockphoto.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Manufactured in the United States

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Gesch, Roy G.

Confirmed in Christ/Roy G. Gesch. – Rev. ed.

p. cm.

Summary: A spiritual guide for young people intended to help them examine their religious training and how it can be applied to their adult life.

ISBN 978-0-7586-5038-2

1. Youth—Religious life. [1. Conduct of life. 2. Christian life.] I. Title.

BV4850.G395 1997

248.8'3—dc20

96-38785

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14

*Many thanks to the students, teachers,
and principals of Orange County Lutheran
High School in Orange, California,
and California Lutheran High School
in Tustin, California, who generously
shared their time, thoughts, and feelings
with the author.*

Contents

1. Confirmation—What Does It Really Mean?	9
2. You're Someone Special!	15
3. Jesus—Your Special Friend	23
4. You've Got a Lot to Live For!	31
5. God Isn't Finished with You Yet	41
6. When the Road Gets Rough	67
7. You Don't Have to Go It Alone	83
8. No One Should Have to Go It Alone	95
9. Tomorrow Is Today	107

1



Confirmation— What Does It Really Mean?

You're confirmed. Congratulations! Your confirmation day was probably one of the happiest days of your life—a day filled with inspiring and memorable events. But what does this special day really mean?

For your parents, your family, and your friends, your confirmation was the fulfillment of their hopes and dreams. Through the years, they've invested a lot of love and prayer in you. With God's help, your parents have faithfully followed His instructions to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6). As

you stood in front of the whole church and confessed what you believe about God and as you promised to love and remain loyal to Him, they must have felt that God had answered their prayers. He had blessed their love and effort. He had brought you into a closer relationship with Himself.

At your confirmation, the whole church shared in your joy and confession. For your fellow church members, it was another sign that God is at work in your life. Some of these people have watched you grow in your life as a fellow believer from your Baptism until now! It must mean so much to them to hear you confess the faith they share with you. Think how they must rejoice as they kneel with you at the Lord's altar to be strengthened and reassured by the body and blood of Christ.

Is your confirmation a joyful time for you? It definitely should be. You're probably relieved that there won't be any more conflicts with after-school or weekend activities, not to mention that you won't have any more memory work assignments.

But what does your confirmation really mean to you? This special day—when you confess your faith before God, your family, and your fellow believers—should bring you great happiness. During your preparation for this day, you have come to know God better. You have become more aware of what God has been

doing and continues to do for you. You have come to realize His great love in Jesus Christ and His power in your life. You have developed an earnest desire to live to the fullest the new life He has given you in your Baptism.

Your greatest joy about your confirmation centers in the fact that you told God how much He means to you. You confessed the faith He put in your heart. At your Baptism, your sponsors and family confessed their faith in front of everyone. Now you have confirmed this faith in God before Him and His people without embarrassment or fear. You have showed that now, as a teenager, and later, as an adult, you are looking to God's Holy Spirit to help you follow His path.

Yes, your confirmation day may be over, but what happened—your confession and the faith that caused it—hasn't ended. Your confirmation was only another step in growing up in Christ. It's a little like an egg. An egg can't fly. Yet the living thing in that egg has wings. If that life is cared for, one day it will fly.

Until now, people have seen you as a child. And they've probably treated you as one. But now your day has come. You have broken out of your childhood shell. Your confirmation classes were like flying lessons. You were being shown how to use the wings of faith that God gave you.

At your Baptism, your parents made a promise. They kept that promise as they taught you about Jesus and took you to church and Sunday School. With God's help, they did their part to get you into the air. God worked through your parents, your teachers, and your pastor to prepare you for your solo flight, your public confession of faith in Him.

Now you can fly. But you don't fly alone. Jesus flies with you. He is the one that gives you the spiritual maturity and the faith to tell the whole world that you are His child. Your confirmation marks the day that you took control of your relationship with Jesus. You are saying to your family, "Thanks for your love and your training, but I'm going to stand on my own two feet. With Jesus' help, I'm going to wing it by myself." As you confirmed the promise they once made for you, you took on yourself the responsibility for keeping that promise. And Jesus promises to be with you always and provide His Holy Spirit to guide your flight.

But getting in the air isn't the big thing. It's strong flying that's important. Ask Jesus to help you use your wings in the right way and to fly in the directions He wants you to take.

Confirmation is also like baseball. Until now you've been learning the game. Confirmation class has been spring training. Now you're in the big

leagues. You may be a rookie, but rookies win games. Every player has the potential to be the most valuable player.

But watch out! Don't let the pressures of the big leagues knock you out of the game. You don't want to be one of the many one-hit wonders or one-season marvels that fill the record books. Ask God to give you a strong faith, one that will stick around and enjoy a long career. Ask Him to bring you safely to His heavenly Hall of Fame.