

Common features of confident, reflective people:

They are willing to recognize and live with their own "unfinishedness", knowing that they are subject to weakness and sometimes failures but that the best of them is good, so very good. They know they have limitations but they also know that they can rejoice in the promise of redemption.

Despite their fears, they constantly stretch their inner selves to take risks, to meet challenges. They believe in their giftedness and know that the best way to thank God for it is to continually reach into risk, discovering and developing their hidden potential.

They know how to laugh and enjoy life even in the most difficult of times; they do not take themselves so seriously as to grimace and fret through each day.

They take time for solitude—to think and to pray in order to distance themselves and get a good perspective on their present situation.

They have their values in proper order, recognizing that people are always more important than material things, knowing that it is only the immaterial values such as love that they will carry with them into the eternal life.

They nurture an intimate relationship with their God for they have learned that the more they know this wonderful God, the more they will understand how deeply he cherishes them no matter what happens in their lives.

Finally, they have a vision within themselves that reminds them that their strength and power, their hope and trust, can never be marshaled all by themselves. Rather, it is God in whom they find their strength and often this God gives the needed strength through the encouragement and kindness of other human beings.