

40 Days IN the Word

Text: Philippians 4:13 - *“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”*

Many people have **misused Philippians 4:13** and taken it to mean that you can do all the things you desire through Christ.

Here’s what this verse does **NOT** teach:

- *You have all the answers to all of your life’s problems.*
- *You will get everything you want. Just name it and claim it.*
- *You can do all things you want to do because Jesus gives you the strength.*

God has never promised that all of our earthly problems would be solved or taken away.

God is not a *Genie in a bottle!*

When you take this verse out of context, you will think it means doing anything you want.

Phil. 4:13 rendering in other Bible translations.

Christ gives me the strength to face anything. (CEV)

I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me. (GNT)

Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. (The Message)

If God leads you to it, He will get you through it.
We can face all things in life through Christ who strengthens us.

Another rendering of this verse that can shed more light to us is the **AMPLIFIED VERSION** which says....

I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose...]

Philippians 4:13 is bound within the parameters of **God's calling** to **fulfil His purpose**.

To better understand what Paul was saying, we need to read this in light of the preceding text.

Philippians 4:12 says, *“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”*

Contentment is not having what you want but wanting what you have.

For Paul, life is a great teacher. It's all about learning the lessons in life.

There are 5 rules for being human...

1. You will learn lessons.
2. There are no mistakes, no failures, only lessons
3. A lesson is repeated until it is learned
4. If you don't learn the easy lessons, they get harder
5. You'll know you've learned a lesson when your actions change.

Mistakes and failures are simply a price we pay to achieve success; they are just part of the process.

Those who did not fail have never achieved anything.

For Paul, he was sold out on the idea that everything in life, even his own mistakes and failures were significant part of learning to be a better follower of Christ.

Nelson Mandela once said, that “*in life you can only win or learn and defeat is not an option.*”

Paul learned the secret of being content.

Again, contentment is **wanting what you have.**

Paul had Jesus and that was all that mattered to him.

Paul's contentment was based on these truths...

➤ **His life was totally sold out to Jesus.**

Phil. 1:21 – *“To live is Christ and to die is gain.”*

Gal. 2:20 – *“I am crucified with Christ...”*

➤ **His life was secured because of Jesus’ presence.**

Heb. 13:5 – *“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

➤ **He had set his # 1 priority/goal in life and that is to know Christ.**

Phil. 3:10 – *“I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead.*

➤ **He was assured of God’s love.**

Rom. 8:35, 37-39 – *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine...? For I am persuaded that neither death nor life... shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which his in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

➤ **God’s grace was always sufficient in his life.**

2 Cor. 12:9 (NLT) – *“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”*

Paul learned the secret of life.

He was content with whom and what He had.

He had Jesus, that was what mattered to him.

In all aspects of his life, he always drew wisdom and strength from Jesus.

The abiding presence of Jesus, His unfailing love and His abounding grace, are the true secret of His life.

This is why Paul said, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

What are the timeless truths that we can apply in our daily life?

- ***As believers, you and I are called by God to fulfil a specific purpose. Pray for God to show it to you and act in obedience.***
- ***Learn to embrace the new definition of mistakes and failures so you can move ahead in life. They are simply a price you pay to achieve the will and purpose of God.***
- ***Keep reminding yourself each day of His abiding presence. He will never leave you nor forsake you.***
- ***Always remember that nothing can separate you from His love.***
- ***Remind yourself that whatever you go through in life His grace will always see you through.***
- ***Find contentment with what you have. If you have Christ – you have everything you need.***

Remember, if God leads you to it, He will get you through it.