**I Can Do…**

*Philippians 4:13*

**Introduction**

1. **Philippians 4:13** is a well-known Bible verse, both in the church and the world.
   1. This verse is very sorely abused, turning “all things” into matters which go beyond the spiritual.
   2. This was not a statement to inspire confidence in temporal and unimportant goals.
   3. This statement pertains to spiritual matters. Matters pertaining to living as a Christian according to God’s will.
2. This verse is intended by the Holy Spirit through Paul to reveal the key to spiritual success.
   1. How can I:
      1. Become more like Christ? Overcome any temptation? Purify my mind? Endure any trial? Always do God’s will? Lead others to Christ? Combat any error? Etc.
   2. This verse reveals a very fundamental truth about how the great apostle Paul was able to live the way he did.
3. A look at this statement from 3 angles will help us to be strengthened in our lives lived for God.
4. A Statement of Faith in Christ
5. Paul Wasn’t A Philosopher
   1. **1 Corinthians 1:17** – preaching not with wisdom of words.
      1. **(v. 20)** – wise (“of the Greek philosophers and orators” – STRONG), scribe (one learned in law), disputer (philosophical debater, one who inquires), wisdom of this world – i.e. wisdom of men.
   2. **1 Corinthians 2:1-5** – simply preached Christ so the faith of the hearer’s was in God.
   3. Paul was not suggesting a mere “can do” attitude that would elevate the Christian to new heights of ability.
   4. Paul was not encouraging the Philippians to “just believe in yourself.”
   5. **Colossians 2:4-5, 8-10** – Paul discouraged philosophical living, and demanded faith.
6. Spiritual Success Requires Faith
   1. One of the main causes of spiritual failure is the notion that “I can’t.”
      1. This is not merely a pessimistic attitude.
      2. It is not a display of humility.
      3. This is a manifestation of a LACK OF FAITH.
      4. Paul said, “I CAN DO” – not an empty belief in self, or a philosophical attempt to convince himself of inner strength, BUT AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH.
   2. Failure to cast out a demon – **Matthew 17:14-21** – a failure of faith.
      1. Jesus had given power, and command to heal – **Matthew 10:1, 8**
      2. **(vv. 17, 20)** – Problem was faithlessness.
      3. Given a command to do something (as a miracle something impossible), but couldn’t accomplish it for lack of faith.
      4. **(v. 20)** – the power of God is activated by even the smallest amount of true faith. (Faith in God’s plans.)
   3. Request of an increase of faith – **Luke 17:5-6** – after warning about causing little ones to stumble, and command to forgive.
      1. **(v. 6)** – Jesus is not implying they have no faith. HE IS VALIDATING THEIR FAITH BY SHOWING HOW POWERFUL EVEN A LITTLE REALLY IS.
      2. Their need – to have the trust to accept God’s word under any circumstance, then they could accomplish such.
   4. **Romans 10:17** – how faith comes.
      1. “Faith” implies that God has spoken, for it comes from His word.
      2. Such faith is TRUST IN GOD’S WORDS/WILL.
         1. **Matthew 19:25-26** – with God it is possible. (Concerning rich man entering heaven.)
      3. Thus, if it be His will “I CAN DO.”
         1. NOTE: Regarding contentment Paul said he had “learned” – where? From Christ. According to God’s will – **Philippians 4:11-12** – learned how to be content.
   5. Requires time spent with God’s word:
      1. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – scripture equips for every good work.
      2. STUDY WITH TRUST THAT YOU ARE GOD’S INSTRUMENT FOR HIS PURPOSES – **Ephesians 2:10; Romans 6:13**
      3. “I CAN DO” IS NOT THEN AN EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN SELF, BUT HUMBLE TRUST IN GOD WHO COMMANDED US – **Luke 17:10**
7. A Statement of Unity with Christ
8. Knowing, but Not Knowing
   1. This is an extension of the discussion of faith. Where faith is not simply knowing the facts of God’s word, but having full conviction in them, and fully trusting God in them, knowledge of Christ runs deeper as well.
   2. Paul said, “THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.”
      1. He does not mean A SUPERFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.
      2. He does not mean A SUBJECTIVE VIEW OF CHRIST.
      3. He means A TRUE UNITY IN LIFE WITH CHRIST.
   3. EX: **1 Corinthians 8:1-3** – concerning the eating of meats offered to idols, but not abusing the liberty.
      1. May know the facts of Christ’s law – it is a liberty.
      2. However, you “know nothing” of Christ if you do not act with love.
      3. FOR THE MAN WITH KNOWLEDGE TO ACTUALLY EXECUTE CHRIST’S WILL HE HAD TO TRULY KNOW CHRIST. IT IS “THROUGH CHRIST” THAT HE WOUD HAVE THE STRENGTH OF FAITH TO ACT APPROPRIATELY. ACTING WITHOUT LOVE, HE DID NOT ALLOW CHRIST TO LIVE IN HIM, THUS, DID NOT DO GOD’S WILL.
   4. Knowing, but Not Knowing Christ:
      1. Doing anything that is without complete unity with, and faith in Christ.
      2. TO TRULY KNOW CHRIST, THUS RECEIVE STRENGTH FROM HIM, AND HAVE THE CAPABILITY THROUGH HIM TO “DO ALL THINGS” ONE MUST BE IN UNITY WITH CHRIST ALWAYS. (ALLOW CHRIST TO TAKE OVER)
         1. **Matthew 11:29** – take His yoke upon you.
         2. **Galatians 2:20** – Christ lives in you.
         3. This is where the victories come in the most difficult circumstances.
         4. One with superficial faith, i.e. not true and personal conviction/trust in God and His ways, will NOT be able to “do all things.”
9. Unity with Christ is Essential
   1. Heavenly Citizenship – **3:20-4:1**
      1. Living life under the sun with a heavenly perspective.
      2. **Ephesians 2:6** – already raised to sit in heavenly places with Christ.
      3. (experienced in Christ now, consummated in the resurrection)
   2. Joy in the Matters Pertaining to the Lord – **4:4**
      1. Joy concerning the salvation in Christ.
      2. Joy concerning all that pertains to Christ – spiritual matters, His will.
   3. Forbearance with Others in Anticipation of the Lord’s Coming – **4:5**
      1. “yielding, gentle, kind” (BDAG; 292)
      2. “forbearance” (ASV); “reasonableness” (ESV); “gentle spirit” (NASB)
         1. not insisting on every right of letter of law or custom, yielding, gentle, kind, courteous, tolerant (BDAG)
      3. Probably in regard to the contention between the two women – **v. 2**
      4. Toward each other, and all, be gentle and willing to yield, not seeking your own BECAUSE THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING WHEN YOU WILL BE JUDGED YOURSELF, AND REWARDED FOR YOU FAITHFULNESS.
   4. Prayerful Living – **4:6-7**
      1. The devoted disciple of Christ does not let the matters of this life affect the way he lives.
      2. Instead, in full trust he gives his cares to God, and enjoys the peace in Christ KNOWING HE PROVIDES AND CARES.
   5. Meditation on the Things of the Lord – **4:8**
      1. As a Christian rejoices in the things of the Lord, so he continually dwells upon them. Not fleshly things, but spiritual things.
   6. Participation in the Things of the Lord – **4:9**
      1. The one who is truly united with Christ does not simply dwell upon these matters in thought, but acts upon them.
   7. Joy in Spiritual Matters of the Lord – **4:10, 14-20**
      1. These words of Paul are a manifestation of an impressive union with Christ.
      2. HE DID NOT LOOK AT THE GIFT FROM THE PHILIPPIANS MERELY AS MONEY WHICH HELPED HIM, BUT AS SPIRITUAL TREASURE FOR THEM, AND A SACRIFICE THAT PLEASED GOD.
      3. Essentially, Paul had spent so much time with Christ, and was so intimately connected with Him that he always saw the spiritual to be that which truly held value.
   8. When we let Christ in and He controls every facet of our lives, and His will becomes our own, His desires our own, His pleasures our own, His joy our own, etc. then we will be strengthened by Him to do all things.
10. A Statement of Commitment to Christ
11. True Commitment is the Key
    1. **Mark 8:34-37** – We must value the spiritual, and the things of Christ to this degree.
       1. So committed that we LOSE ALL to GAIN ALL – this gain will be realized later.
       2. Saying – DON’T PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET – BUT JESUS IS TELLING US TO DO EXACTLY THAT – THAT’S WHAT IT TAKES.
12. Paul Could Do because He Was Committed
    1. Paul was not a “casual Christian.”
    2. Paul was not a “4 hour Christian.” (3 hrs on Sunday, and 1 on Wednesday)
    3. Being a Christian was not a pastime for Paul.
    4. Being a Christian was not a matter of heritage or tradition.
    5. PAUL WAS FULLY COMMITTED – **Philippians 3:7-8**
    6. When brethren wanted Paul to stay because of the prophecies concerning Paul’s troubles waiting in Jerusalem, Paul said – **Acts 21:12-13**

**Conclusion**

1. Paul gives the key to spiritual success in Philippians 4:13.
2. If we are to be successful in doing God’s will always, we must have faith, we must be in complete union with Christ in all we think and do, and we must be fully committed.
3. In this way we will be able to do ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS US.