

25. YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS: Philippians 4:13 by Brett Baggett on Sunday, November 29th, 2020

Five words. Five simple Greek words that Paul wrote. And O how many false teachings come from the twisting of them!

INTRO: Q. Have you ever said something, then being repeated it was taken or used out of context? Do you like it when someone twists your words? Paul? Jesus? May I submit to you, *JESUS DOES NOT LIKE THAT EITHER. (CHILDREN)*

In 2 Peter 3:16, the apostle Peter says concerning Paul's writings, "There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures." (Now, I bet Peter did NOT even have Phil. 4:13 in mind—it is clear!)

BIG IDEA: "Apart from Christ you can do no good thing; in Christ you can do all things good in His strength."

Because **Phil. 4:13** is widely *misinterpreted, mistaught, & misapplied—even abused!*—we must begin by making clear what it *DOES NOT* mean.

I. PHIL. 4:13 DOES NOT MEAN YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH YOUR DREAMS THROUGH CHRIST (Phil. 4:10-12)

- **I)** Phil. 4:13 does not mean "I can accomplish whatever I want to accomplish." **II)** Phil. 4:13 does not mean, "I am enough." **III)** Phil. 4:13 does not mean "I am self-sufficient." **IV)** Phil. 4:13 does not mean, "I can hit the ball or make this shot or win this race."

II. PHIL. 4:13 MEANS YOU CAN BE CONTENT NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCE—YOU CAN FACE ALL THINGS WITH HAPPINESS AS YOU GLORIFY GOD

- *Look at the verse again! (text work) (CHILDREN, it is a nasty thing to try & twist the Bible to say what God is not saying!)*

III. APART FROM CHRIST YOU CAN DO NO GOOD THING (Jn. 15:5)

Jn.15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me & I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

- **There is a great chasm fixed between a sinner and a saint even in their daily lives!** God says through His apostle, "A saint can do all things good in Christ" and God says through His Son, "A sinner can do no things good in himself."

I) Apart from being united to Christ by faith and strengthened by Him, **YOU CANNOT BEAR GOOD FRUIT.**

- **John 15:5b** "Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

II) Apart from being united to Christ by faith and strengthened by Him, **YOU CANNOT PLEASE GOD.**

- **Romans 8:8** "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."
Q. What is it to please God? **A.** Love the LORD your God and love your neighbor as yourself.

III) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT LOVE GOD.**

IV) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.**

V) Apart from being united to Christ by faith and strengthened by Him, **YOU CANNOT GLORIFY GOD.**

- **John 15:8** "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit..."
- **Romans 3:23** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- God is not glorified by your morality nor by your being a nice person, & of course not by your lawlessness. He is glorified by faith & obedience!

VI) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT ENJOY GOD.**

- **Romans 5:10** says before we are united to Jesus Christ by faith we are "enemies of God."
- **Can the King's presence be enjoyed by an unpardoned traitor? No! If he is an enemy, the presence of the King is only fear and terror!**

VII) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT WORSHIP GOD.**

- **Q.** Can you worship whom you do not enjoy? Enjoy whom you do not glorify? Glorify whom you do not love? Love whom you are in rebellion to?

VIII) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT STAND FIRM IN SUFFERING.**

- **Mark 4:17** "when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they (*the fake Christian*) fall away."

IX) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT STAND FIRM FOR THE TRUTH.**

- **Ephesians 2:2b** "following the course of this world." (*CHILDREN—you are not meant to be like everyone else in the world—you are to be like Jesus!*)

X) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT BE CONTENT WITH GOD'S PROVIDENCE.**

- **Phil. 4:10-13.** Apart from Christ your life will be plagued with grumbings & anxieties, murmurings & worries, as you shake your fist at God!

XI) Apart from being united to Christ by faith and strengthened by Him, **YOU CANNOT LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE.**

- **Romans 8:31** "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
- **If you are not for Christ, God is not for you.** Therefore if the whole world is for you, what does it matter seeing that God is against you?

XII) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT BE FREE FROM SIN.**

- **John 8:34** "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."

XIII) Apart from being united to Christ by faith and strengthened by Him, **YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING BUT SIN.**

- **Romans 14:23** "For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin."

XIV) Apart from Christ, **YOU CANNOT FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION.**

- **Matthew 28:19** "Go make disciples of all nations...baptizing them...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded."

XV) Apart from being united to Christ by faith & strengthened by Him, **YOUR VERY MEMORY WILL BE SOUR.**

- **Proverbs 10:7** "The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot."

XVI) Apart from being united to Christ by faith & strengthened by Him, **YOU CANNOT SURVIVE THE JUDGEMENT.**

- **Jn.15:6** "If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch & withers; & the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, & burned."
- **Psalms 1:4-5** "The wicked...are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment."

IV. IN CHRIST YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS GOOD (Phil. 4:13)

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- **If Christ be your fuel, the fire will never burn out.** If Christ be your float, you will never drown. If Christ be your pilot, you will never crash!
- **If Christ be your strength, in no pit shall you sink!** Only when you look for strength outside of Christ will you be fruitless and faithless!

• **Oh weary saint, cling to this great promise in Phil. 4:13!** Look to Christ for salvation from sin & you can do all things through Him!

I) If you are united to Christ by faith and looking to Him for strength, YOU CAN BEAR GOOD FRUIT.

- **Matthew 7:17** "Every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit."
- If you are in Christ, then by His Spirit He is sucking out Adam's poison of ruin and infusing you with His power of redemption!

II) If you are united to Christ by faith and looking to Him for strength, YOU CAN PLEASE GOD.

- **Col. 1:10** "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work & increasing in the knowledge of God."
- Because God has made you pleasing to Himself by clothing you with Christ's perfections, you can now walk in ways that please Him.
- **You may say**, "But I fail in many ways!" **I say**, "Yes, you do and so do I, but God accepts our imperfect obedience for Christ's sake."
- **Q.** What is it to please God? **A.** Love the LORD your God and love your neighbor as yourself.

III) In Christ, YOU CAN LOVE GOD.

- **1 John 4:19** "We love because he first loved us."
- For every action there is a reaction; God's redeeming love is the action that creates the reaction of your love for Him.

IV) In Christ, YOU CAN LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

- **Luke 10:37** "You go, and do likewise."

V) If you are united to Christ by faith and looking to Him for strength, YOU CAN GLORIFY GOD.

- **1 Corinthians 6:20** "You were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."
- God is restoring His image in you, believer. Like the cleaning of a mirror, God is wiping the filth away so that you may reflect His glories as Adam was meant to.

VI) In Christ, YOU CAN ENJOY GOD.

- **Psalms 73:25** "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you."
- **Psalms 16:11** "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."
- **You may say**, "But I do not enjoy God like I see other saints enjoying him." **I say**, "Further up and further in!"
- The pardoned traitor who is welcomed to the King's table will first simply be glad not to have been executed; later he will be glad to converse with His generous Lord.

VII) In Christ, YOU CAN WORSHIP GOD.

- **Heb. 12:28** "Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe."
- This is a mystery to someone who is only pretending to be a Christian—they cannot worship God from the heart. But you can, saint! You can! So worship Him!

VIII) If you are united to Christ by faith and looking to Him for strength, YOU CAN STAND FIRM IN SUFFERING.

- **Job 13:15** "Though he slay me, I will hope in him."
- **Was Christ Jesus our Lord slain for your sin?** Then when God slays you it is for your sanctification!
- **Romans 5:3-5** "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."
- **Romans 8:18** "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

IX) In Christ, YOU CAN STAND FIRM FOR THE TRUTH.

- **2 Timothy 4:16-17** "At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it."

X) In Christ, YOU CAN BE CONTENT WITH GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

- **You can say with Paul in Philippians 4:10-13**, "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content... In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret... I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
- **And you can say what Eli said in 1 Samuel 3:18**, "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him."

XI) If you are united to Christ by faith and looking to Him for strength, YOU CAN LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE.

- **Romans 8:31-32** "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"
- **If you are for Christ, God is for you.** Therefore if the whole world is against you, what does it matter seeing that God is for you?

XII) In Christ, YOU CAN BE FREE FROM SIN.

- **John 8:34-35** "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. But if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed."

XIII) If you are united to Christ by faith and looking to Him for strength, YOU CAN PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- **1 John 2:29** "If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him."

XIV) In Christ, YOU CAN FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION.

- **Acts 1:8** "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

XV) If you are united to Christ by faith and looking to Him for strength, YOUR MEMORY WILL BE A BLESSING.

- **Proverbs 10:7** "The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot."

XVI) If you are united to Christ by faith and looking to Him for strength, YOU CAN SURVIVE THE JUDGEMENT.

- **Exodus 12:13** "when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you."
- **Q. Does God see the blood when He looks at you?** Do you have simple faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified? Look to Him and live!
- If not, you can do nothing good; you cannot survive the judgement; even your memory will rot. **Oh how foolish it is to refuse the King's pardon!**
- Oh if you look to Christ in faith and look to Him for *strength*, you can do all things him Christ who strengthens you.
- **END:** If you want *strength* you must go to the Scriptures and trust Christ! If you want *tenacity* you must think on Christ; If you want *might* you must meditate on Christ; if you want *power* you must pray for strength from Christ!