

God's Powerful Promises in the Context of His Mission

Sometimes we memorize just a verse of Scripture without reference to the **context** in which we find the verse. Today we should look at two promises from Paul's letters which only apply when we are **on mission**.

PROMISE #1: Philippians 4:13: ¹³**I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.**

- **Context: Phil 4:10-14**

¹⁰But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

¹¹Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

¹³I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.

¹⁴Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.

- **Some Observations:**

1. This is not, strictly speaking, a promise but a **declarative statement** by Paul about what is absolutely the case.
2. Paul states this truth not as a **boast** in his **spirituality** but to provide the Philippian Christians with an **example** for how to think about the Christian life.
3. This IS a **universal** statement: I can do **all** things. It echoes John 15:5.
4. What is the context for the statement? The secret for having **abundance or poverty** in the **material details** of life.
5. What are the **all things** he's talking about? Living well with what God **provides!**
6. Paul is on mission, discussing **mission provisions**.
7. Does it make sense to try to apply this idea of mission provision when we are not on mission?

- **How Can we apply Philippians 4:13?**

1. See to it that **it is indeed** Christ Who is strengthening you...
2. ...because you are **walking** with Him according to His instructions.
3. All the **strength** you need to accomplish what God **wants** you to do is available through Christ.
4. This is spiritual strength for the **mission**, regardless of humble or prosperous **circumstances**.
5. Bottom line: you need to be ON MISSION to use Phil 4:13.
- 6.

Promise #2: Philippians 4:19: ¹⁹And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- **Context: Philippians 4:15-19**

¹⁵You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;

¹⁶for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

¹⁷Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

¹⁸But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

¹⁹And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- **Observations:**

1. This is a **promise**.
2. It is set within a specific historical **context**—it is from God to the Philippians through Paul.
3. Therefore, it sets up a **pattern** for us. Is this promise directly addressed to us, though?
4. What are the components of the pattern in context?
5. How will you and I fit into this pattern?

- **How can I apply Philippians 4:19?**

1. Not everyone who is ON MISSION goes to the **field**.

2. The givers advance the mission by **supporting** the sending of the message.
3. Then God **resupplies** the givers so that they can give **more**.
4. Once we understand Christ's mission for the Church, we become eager to participate in it however we can.
5. It all goes back to Matthew 28:19-20→What is your cut of the mission?!

We can and should expect God to provide both spiritual ability and provision for our conduct of His mission.