

**What Philippians 4:13 Does NOT Say**  
**February 9, 2014**  
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**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

In our previous message series about “How to Not be Broke” we learned much, I hope, about the power of God in our lives.

I asked you, how does God go about giving us the things we need and enabling us to do the things we need to get done?

Does God feed us like He did when He sent the ravens to feed Elijah?

Does He just hand us jobs and groceries and cars and houses and clothes?

We know as it says in **Deuteronomy 8:18** But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee **power to get** wealth,

Look one more time at last week’s text passage:

**Ecclesiastes 5:19** Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him **power to eat** thereof, and to take his

portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this *is* the gift of God.

5. What God gives us is power; power to get wealth, power to eat thereof, power to take our portion; even power to rejoice in our labor.

**Philippians 4:13** could accurately be translated  
 I can do all things through Christ who empowers me.

That word *strengthened* is the Greek *endunamoō*; (it's from *dunamis* where we get our English word dynamite.)

*en-doo-nam-o'-o*

From [G1722](#) and [G1412](#); to *empower*: - enable, (increase in) strength (-en), be (make) strong.

It means *to empower*; I can do all things through Christ who empowers me.

This is a powerful verse and it does not just apply to the Apostle Paul; it does not just apply to the Philippian Church; yes, it really does apply to every Born Again Believer!

However, we do well to stop and notice what this verse does **not** say.

This verse **does not say** “I can do **anything** through Christ who strengthens or empowers me.”

It says “I can do all things.” All what things, you may ask?

You did ask, right? Let me hear you ask; say, “all what things, Pastor?” ...Oh, I am so glad you asked.

The answer is “those things” from verse 9.

**Philippians 4:9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Say, “Pastor, can you get more specific?”

Why, yes, I believe I can; verse 12 defines this for us:

**Philippians 4:12** I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and **in all things I am instructed** both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

There is your answer, right there in the middle of this verse.

The verse means, “I can do all things in which I am instructed by the Lord.”

This verse is a far cry from meaning “I can do anything.”

Only God can do anything, right?

How about a little Bible quiz this morning?  
How many of you believe God can do anything?

Does the Bible actually say that God can do anything?

The Word of God does not throw terms around inaccurately like we tend to do.

We talk about anything and everything; take the term everything; did God make **everything**?

How many times will you find this term in the Bible? How many think less than 100? Less than 50? Less than 10? Less than 2?

How about the term ‘**anything**’? Less than 100? Less than 50? 10? 2?

The Bible speaks sometimes of every specific thing and sometimes of any specific thing; but the term ‘everything’ is not found in the Bible even once. This term does not exist in a King James Bible.

The term ‘anything’ is found only once in **Mark 11:13** when Jesus looked on a fig tree to see if there was ‘anything’ on it.

So, not only can **we** not do ‘anything’, the Bible doesn’t even say this about God.

As a matter of fact, there are a lot of things God cannot do: He cannot lie, He cannot lose, He cannot leave or forsake one who has trusted in Jesus; although some of the stupid stuff believers do probably makes Him at times wish He could.

I know we had rather hear about those things we can do instead of those things we can’t do.

How about we follow the example of what the Holy Spirit has included in the Bible and talk about a healthy balance of both.

Let’s start out with learning:

## **I. In what specific things does Christ promise to empower us?**

*A. The first place to look is always in the immediate context; let’s go see what it says:*

### **1. Philippians 4:8-9**

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever **things** are true, whatsoever **things** are honest, whatsoever **things** are just, whatsoever **things** are pure, whatsoever **things** are lovely, whatsoever **things** are of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on **these things**.

**9 Those things**, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

2. The things in and for which Jesus will empower you include all things that are:

3. True.

**John 4:23** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

4. Honest.

**2Corinthians 8:21** Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

5. Just.

**Hebrews 10:38** Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

6. Pure.

**1John 3:3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

7. Lovely. This Greek word actually means 'acceptable'.

**Ephesians 1:6** To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

8. Of good report.

**1Timothy 3:7** Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

9. Virtue. Check out what this means; aretē  
*ar-et'-ay*

From the same as **G730**; properly *manliness* (*valor*), that is, *excellence* (intrinsic or attributed): - praise, virtue.

Ever see a bumper sticker that says 'real men love Jesus'?

**2Peter 1:5** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue;...

10. Praise.

**Ephesians 1:12** That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. Our very lives ought to be a testimony to the praise of His glory!

11. Christ will empower you to follow what you are taught and shown by the Godly examples He sets before you.

**Philippians 4:9** **Those things**, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

*B. There are many other things Christ will empower us to do.*

1. There are numerous things God has stated that are in His will for you, like;
  - a. **1Peter 2:15** For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:
  - b. **1Thessalonians 5:18** In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
  - c. This list is long and all of it requires the strength of the Lord to accomplish.
2. There are things you will need to accomplish that are just hard.
  - a. **1Peter 4:19** Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.
  - b. **Philippians 4:12** I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
  - c. You may need to endure being broke for a while so that God's purpose might be accomplished in you.
3. There are conditions you will need to meet in order to receive what God has promised.



**Hebrews 10:36** For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

4. There are other things God did not specifically promise that He may well empower you to do if you ask.

**1John 3:22** And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. Like that day years ago when Christ set me free from my cigarette habit.

5. So what is covered in this promise from Christ to empower you?

**2Peter 1:3-4**

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

6. A better question might be what can you accomplish without the strengthening of the Lord?

**John 15:5** I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Philippians 4:13 does **not** say that you *can do* or that you *may do* anything...

**II. 'I can do all things through Christ' does not mean that you can do anything your flesh wants to do.**

*A. Last week I reminded you of who you are.*

1. You are a child of the living God!

2. You are a joint heir with Christ.

**Romans 8:16-17**

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;...

*B. Let me also remind you that the Lord has another method of strengthening us that we may not enjoy as much.*

1. **Hebrews 12:1-8**

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

2. Remember that part about God cannot break His Word to us?

3. That means if you are really saved, you are going to experience God taking a switch to you.

4. It starts gently with new believers and gets more severe with older ones who rebel; that's the scourging part.

*C. Be not deceived, God will do whatever it takes to deal with your sin.*

### 1. **Hebrews 12:9-11**

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them*

reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?  
 10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.  
 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

2. Even though God is merciful and gentle and sometimes moves slowly; especially with baby Christians; He always takes us where we need to go.

3. For 37 years now I have been experiencing God's correcting work in my own life and I have observed His work in the lives of many others.

#### 4. **Hebrews 12:12-15**

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;  
 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.  
 14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:  
 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

*D. There are three common areas of sins over which I have seen the chastening of God become the most severe.*

**1. Misleading new and immature Christians into sin.** **Mark 9:42** And whosoever shall offend one of *these* little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

**2. Participating in gossip.**

**Proverb 6:12-19**

12 A naughty person, a wicked man, **walketh with a froward mouth.**

13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

14 Frowardness *is* in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; **he soweth discord.**

15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 **A false witness that speaketh lies**, and **he that soweth discord among brethren.**

**3. Bringing reproach on the Church.**

In Acts, Chapter 5 the Lord took the lives of two rebellious believers who lied to God; it accomplished exactly what God intended.

**Acts 5:10-14**

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.

11 **And great fear came upon all the church**, and upon as many as heard these things.

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

**In Conclusion: This Church...WE, Lighthouse, are going to learn to fear the Lord; one way or another.**

**We can respect the Lord's awesome power and allow Him to enable us to achieve the humanly impossible for His glory.**

**Or, we can learn to fear Him the hard way.**

**One thing we had better get from this message; the Lord will not back down from His Word.**

**Those of you who have watched God bless according to His promises and been**

**amazed at His goodness and seen Him keep His Word down to the last detail...**

**You had better remember that He is just as faithful to keep these other promises as well.**

### **Hebrews 12:28-29**

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.

**All three of these sins are rampant in our Church right now:**

**New and immature believers are being led off into sin by some older ones;**

**Gossip and discord and accusations and outright lies are going around like wildfire.**

**Some of you with open sin are making a laughing stock of the Lord and this Church.**

**Yes, Church, we are under attack; I have been here before. And yes, we will still be standing and winning souls and preaching the Word and praising Jesus when the dust of this latest attack settles.**

**But, unless some repentance takes place; unless a genuine fear of the Lord replaces**

**some of the sin that is going on around here; some of you won't be.**

**I don't know exactly what the Lord is going to do about this, but He is going to deal with it.**

**This is our official warning from the Lord.**