

Spiritual Success Comes In "Cans"

November 11, 2020

Scripture: Philippians 4:10-13

10. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

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.

13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Summary: God wants us to be able to say with Paul, positively,

"I CAN do all things through Christ Who strengthens me!"

Let's consider Paul's revelation for a moment.

SPIRITUAL SUCCESS COMES IN "CANS"

Phil. 4:13

13. "I CAN do all things through Christ which strengthens me!"

INTRODUCTION

A. HUMOR:

1. JOKE #1: LAWYER'S REVENGE

- a. A lawyer's dog, running about unleashed, beelines for the local butcher shop and steals a roast off the counter.**
- b. The butcher went to the lawyer's office and asks, "if a dog, running unleashed, steals a piece of meat from my store, do I have a right to demand payment for the meat from the dog's owner?"**
- c. "Absolutely," the lawyer responded. The butcher immediately shot back, "Good! You owe me \$12 for the roast your dog stole from me this morning."**
- d. The lawyer, without a word, writes the butcher a check for \$12. A few days later, the butcher, browsing through his mail, finds an envelope from the lawyer. The contents read "Consultation fee: \$50.00."**

2. JOKE #2: THE PSYCH'S DIAGNOSIS:

- a. A man went to a psychiatrist and said, "Doctor, I have seen two other psychiatrists. They told me I am cursed with an inferiority complex. I would like for you to examine me and tell me what you think."**
- b. After many tests the doctor said, "Sir, I have good news and bad. The good news is, you DON'T have a complex. The bad news is, you ARE inferior!"**

B. THE WONDERFUL TRUTH

1. That (illus) is exactly what the devil wants you to believe; that you are inferior to others and that others "CAN" live effectively for Jesus, but you "CAN'T."

2. Phil. 4:13 is a verse that shatters every negative or derogatory thing anyone has ever said to you: it says, "I CAN do all things through Christ which strengthens me!"

3. We all have secret fears:

A. Of what people think;

B. Of failure;

C. Of making a fool of ourselves -- and these figures can affect our lives.

C. GOD'S GOAL

But God wants us to be able to say with Paul, positively, "I CAN do all things through Christ Who strengthens me!"

I. THE SCOPE OF THE PROMISE: "ALL THINGS"

A. YOU CAN ENDURE ALL THE TRIALS OF LIFE

1. No matter how big or severe your trial, whatever problems or difficulties come your way -- our God is able to make us overcomers in all of them!

2. Paul was thrown in many prisons, tortured and beaten frequently, faced death often, yet he could say, "I can do all things...." This was an amazing admission.

None of us have faced what he did; if he could say it, so can we!

3. You say, "Yes, but Pastor, I'm not Paul. I don't have that kind of grace." Well you don't have it today, because you don't need it today. On the day you need extra strength, God will supply it.

4. That's why God said, "As is your day, so shall be your strength."

Deuteronomy 33:25

25. Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.

We may:

- a. Lose loved ones;**
- b. Lose our possessions;**
- c. Face hopeless/ impossible situations,**

5. But God has said, "My grace IS sufficient for you..." Nothing shall overwhelm us, because "Greater is He that is in you, then he that is in the world." Our God is bigger!

B. YOU CAN PERFORM ALL DUTIES

1. Nothing that is placed before you to do shall be impossible for you! If like Moses, you are called to humble the greatest nation on earth, you will be able to do it.

2. If you're called to witness to a difficult person, you SHALL BE EQUAL TO THE TASK. You say, "I'm not a good speaker." Neither was Moses, or Jeremiah, or Gideon.

3. "Whom God calls, He qualifies." He will make you sufficient for what He calls you to do.

4. Whether you're calling is as Mothers, dads, grandparents, employees, to hold public office, or positions in the church, You can do all things!

C. YOU CAN OVERCOME ALL TEMPTATIONS

1. There are many different kinds of temptations -- outward, mental, emotional.

Some are tempted to yield to depression or despair. We all have our weak points.

D. SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1. 2 Cor. 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; behold all things are passed away, and behold, all things are made new."

2. 1 Cor. 10:13, "There has no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you can bear, but will with the temptation make a way of escape that you may bear up under it. "

3. Rom. 5:20, "But where sin abounds, grace does much more abound!"

4. Rom. 14:4, Weak Christian, "for God is able to make him stand."

II. HOW DO WE GET THIS STRENGTH?

A. "THROUGH CHRIST"

1. It would be presumption/vain for anyone to say, "I can do all things" and not add "through Christ."

2. Psalm 29:11, "The Lord will give strength to His people."

B. MEANS—HOW DOES HE GIVE IT?

1. Mysterious inflowing of the Spirit's power, a strengthening of faith, and a quickening of mind -- the apostles experienced this in Acts crises. We become equal to the emergency that is before us.

2. The word (Phil. 4:13) for "strength," comes from a word signifying "twisted together." This teaches us that...

a. We are weak. But when we are "twisted together" with God, we together are unstoppable. Think of a rope. When weak strands are twisted together, together they are unbreakable!

b. That's why the Psalmist said,

1). Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is the Strength of my life."

2). Psalm 28:7, "The Lord is my strength and my shield."

3. We must be careful to get Jesus' strength.

a. If you Begin w/o Prayer, there will be a poor Ending.

b. If you enter a battle without God, you'll be routed by the enemy.

4. We need to do our part in getting strength: Prayer, Word, Praise, and Witnessing.

5. Interestingly, Paul speaks not of the past tense, but present; "Christ Is strengthening me." It's the continuous present tense.

C.

1. As Christians, we, too, have an infinite power source flowing that can be tapped into: the mighty Holy Spirit.

2. Sadly, many of us aren't tapping into this power that God is providing!

The Bible is specific: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you" Acts 1:8.

III. THE KEYS TO OUR PRISON

This verse has a much wider application: it captures...

A. THE POWER OF BELIEVING

1. That You can be a Christian -- born again, have the power of a new life, be a new creation -- and YET BE BOUND. Why?

2. We hold the keys to our own prison!

a. Psychology tells us, "You will become what you imagine yourself to be." If I say, "I can't...", then I won't.

b. This is confirmed in Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he."

B. IF YOU KEEP BELIEVING THE LIES OF THE DEVIL, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY DEVELOP THE SYMPTOMS!

1. We need to believe the Word, "Greater is He that is in me" and "I can do all things through Christ."

2. Forget who YOU are, and remember who GOD is!

C. INFERIORITY = POISON to your effectiveness

1. Acts 28 -- Snake latched onto Paul's hand (Activity). Malta. A venomous snake seeks to hang on the hand of every Christian.

2. Your "Hand" is your effectiveness for God. The enemy seeks to inject his poison into your effectiveness and paralyze you: --

bitterness, resentment, jealousy, inferiority, pride, accusations,condemnation.

3. Paul didn't allow it to stay. "And he shook off the beast into the fire and felt no harm."

4. TWO KEYS TO DELIVERANCE?

a. PAUL DID THE SHAKING. God expects us to do something about our condition.

- 1). Put off the old man;**
- 2). Lay aside every weight;**
- 3). Change our attitude; shake off the old.**

B. PAUL HELD THE BEAST OVER THE FIRE.

- 1). The heat of the fire loosened the snake from his hand. Satan will flee when we let the fire of God consume us!**
- 2). John the Baptist said, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire," Luke 3:16.**

Everywhere there are Christians baptized in the Holy Spirit -- but NOT with the fire.

3). God's fire burns out the old trash. Trash can't stay where the fire is!

-- The three Hebrews went into the fire in their ropes burned off!

-- People will follow fire truck, but I've never seen people follow ice truck. Let's get on fire!

CONCLUSION

A. Believing God will Answer your Prayer

YOU MUST BEGIN TO HAVE FAITH IN Him!!!!””

Mark 11:24. "When you pray, believe, and it SHALL COME TO PASS.””

B. THE CALL

- 1. How many of you are tired of milling around in the mire of weakness?**
- 2. How many of you want the bands of Satan which still hang on you to fall off! You want to step up to a higher level of living.**
- 3. Let's get back to the power of believing, of faith. “You will know the truth and the truth shall make you free!” Faith helps you rise above earthly limitations and gives you joy and courage in the face of adversity.**