

DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY...

"I Can Do Anything With God"

Empowered for All Things
April 19, 2020

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness." ~ Corinthians 12:9a

Start with a few moments of simply soaking in God's strength as the Scriptures reveal it to us. It is a defining trait of His character.

As you read these passages, identify and/or talk about: the unique characteristics of God's strength, how He responds with power in particular times in the lives of His followers, His promises of strength, and how He imparts this power to us.

Genesis 1

Psalms 18:2; 27:14

Isaiah 40:29-31; 41:10; 43:1-3

Matthew 19:23-30

Mark 4:35-41

Romans 5:6

2 Corinthians 12:9

Hebrews 4:15

2 Timothy 1:7

Paul's words in Philippians 4:13 are encouraging and uplifting. They are wonderful. Yet they are also often shared and/or heard in a misleading way. How have you heard these words poorly used? When in life have you even applied them a bit out of context? If in a group, share some of your examples.

Let's step into Paul's shoes for a bit here. He's in prison as he writes these words. He is awaiting an unknown future at the hands of corrupt leaders. Paul is not saying, 'try harder and anything is possible.' So, let's uncover what he is saying...

Read Ephesians 4:10-12

What circumstances does Paul bring to light here from his own life journey? And how can you relate to some of them?

With this ebb-and-flow of life in mind, what is the heart of the secret Paul has learned ?

Now, with contentment in Christ in clear focus, read verse 13.

What does "all things" refer too? (Hint, it's not only good stuff.)

Paul reveals for us that he can enjoy the good, endure the struggles, survive the mundane, trust in the face of trial, and so much more because – and only because – Christ is strengthening him for this path.

- So, how is your contentment in this moment?
- If you are discontent, are you seeking God's strength for this experience or are you seeking Him to remove the experience? (Both perhaps have a time and a place, so seek God's influence on His will for this moment.)
- Lastly, survey your life's unique landscape in this moment. Where is God strengthening you? Where do you need His strength but have not yet trusted in Him to empower you?