

I CAN ENDURE ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME

Philippians 4:13 does not say that I can do anything I desire to do and Christ will give me strength. Paul is giving practical insight into living the Christian life. Life “in Christ” is a life of dependence on Him to fulfill the mission He has for your life. God’s mission for us is so much greater than our ambitions, and therefore we should be willing to follow His path for our life. Whatever things, good or bad, thrown our way should be endured by the Christian in the power of Christ who gives me strength. All people face trials. The consequences of sin are separations of all kinds. Christ will strengthen the cooperating believer to endure whatever he faces. Paul says in verse 12 that he has learned to live in times of plenty and times of little resources. Paul was not doing anything he wanted with God’s help. Paul was enduring hardship with God’s help so that the Gospel would reach all the world.

This is how you must stand firm in the Lord:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be apparent to all. The Lord is near.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think on these things.

Now I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this out of need, for I have learned to be content regardless of my circumstances. I know how to live humbly, and I know how to abound. In any and every situation I have learned the secret of being filled and being hungry, of having plenty and having need. I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.