

Phil 13 – Ready For All Things PT 1 - Phil 4:10-13

We've dealt with quite a few "famous" vs's
in our study of Philippians

But today – for certain – we come to the most famous
of all the famous Vs's in this great book

I am relatively certain – that there is NO OTHER Vs in the entire
Bible – that is as mis-quoted as the Vs. we will see today

(wrap up intro)

Paul begins to thank the Philippians
for the gift they had sent with Epaphraditus

Phil 4:10

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

He's saying thank you - for the Philippian church persisting
in getting financial support to him

& he says - your care for me has LIT "blossomed again"

Tho I know you actually cared all along
but were unable to get the care to me.

Paul's just beginning to thank them for their financial support

But then - in V.11 – Paul starts a subject within a subject

& he **actually addresses** one of the most
sought after secrets in a Christian's walk with the Lord

Paul had been initiated into a level of Walk that we need to see
& a level of walk that we need to strongly desire

He's about to address a Secret – a Mystery
that involves our circumstances

& that's why it's so important we see it - **& why it's** so important
we make a commitment to discovering this secret ourselves

Because we are "circumstance-based" people, aren't we ?

Because of our "self-nature" - we tend to live like this:

When circumstances are GOOD – then we're GOOD

When circumstances are BAD – then we're BAD

So – because this is our nature we have a natural tendency
to try to bring God **INTO** our circumstances

We have a tendency to see God as the FIXER of our circumstances
we even mistakenly think - that's His job
(*to make everything better for US*)

THAT – is actually unbiblical

The only way that idea can be supported
is by taking a very few scriptures way out of context

then **hammering on them** until we begin to see God
as a **BIG BLUE GENIE** – *just waiting to do what we tell Him to*

But guys – God is soooo much bigger than our circumstances

He cares so much more about us **than just being** a Big Genie
to be here to fix all our circumstances

God loves us **for eternity** – he died for us **for our eternity**

& He knows - WAY BETTER than we do –
that our circumstances are TEMPORARY

He also knows – if He were to actually give us what **WE** want
It would actually be **BAD** for us - & **BAD** for our relationship w/ him

It's like our children - We all know – sometimes giving our children
everything they want – is **the worst thing** in the world for them !

& **how much better** a Father is our **Heavenly Father** ?

If we think “**Father knows best**” here
How much more does our “**Heavenly Father know best**”

& if we will **Trust Him** – He will give us something **much, much**
more valuable than just temporary, fleeting **happy circumstances**

& **THAT is the secret** we're about to see Paul speak of ;

Let's Pray

Phil 4:11

***11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in
whatever state I am, to be content:***

Paul's not speaking to “announce” his own need
he's careful not to sound like he's asking for more money

& then - “*I have **learned**” (I have come to understand) -
how to **be content** in whatever **state** (*circumstance*) I am in*

Paul didn't grow up understanding how to be content
w/ whatever he had – he actually grew up in the lap of luxury

He had to “*learn*” (*come to understand*) this secret – **by experience**
which is **generally the best way** God trains us , *isnt it ?*

Now – **it's very important** that we look at this word “**Content**”

The word "**content**" means **LIT** :

"to be independent of external circumstances"

So – end of V.11 - LIT is

*"I have come to understand, in every condition (circumstance),
how to live independent of external circumstances"*

Isn't that what we really need – to learn how to live
independent of our external circumstances

Right here – in the midst of thanking the Philippians for their support

Paul speaks of a supernatural gift from God that FAR EXCEEDS
the temporary blessing of God just fixing our circumstances

It's the **Miraculous Secret** Paul has learned
by his experience with Jesus Christ

Here it is - **Phil 4:12**

***12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound.
Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to
be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.***

Paul says – I know how "to be abased"
It means - "*to be made low, humiliated*"

& then he says – I know how "to abound"
it means - "*to overflow with excess*"

& **the turth is** – it's actually **HARDER** to learn how to "abound"
(I know . . . you're saying . . . "*just try me*")

But when we're "abounding" we actually have **that great danger**
of *NOT SEEING* our *need* for Christ

Just write Rev 3:17-18 in your margin - & ck it later

Cont. in **V.12** - when Paul says "*I have learned*"
it means LIT – "*I have been initiated*"

It's a different word than in **V.11**

V.11 "*I have learned*" = "*I have come to understand*"

V.12 "*I have learned*" = "*I have been initiated*"

It's a reference to **initiation thru testing**

Paul had **been Initiated** into this **Secret**
thru the *testing of trial & need*

Paul's **LIT** choice of words – "*I have been initiated*"
seem to fit perfectly

Because **this secret** (Paul's about to reveal)
is almost always *learned* the hard way – *By Experience*

Almost always – we **have to be initiated** into this secret
by *that great teacher* of Life's Lessons - - - *Experience*

OK – Here's **the great secret** Paul had been initiated into
by His experience of life with Christ

Phil 4:13

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

Paul says – "*I have Learned*" – "*I have Been Initiated*" -
"*I have Come to Understand*"

Thru *Situations & Circumstances* - of **Trial AND Blessing**

Look at V.12 → →

V.12 – Thru times of:

Being Abased - & Abounding

Being Full - & Being Hungry

Both Abounding - & Suffering Need

This is one of **the greatest secrets** of the Christian life -
& Paul had to learn it By Experience – **BOTH Good & Bad**

But **how can we learn** such a Great Secret about Life with Christ -
If we try to **make** God a Big Genie . . .

& Demand that He **immediately FIX** everything we don't like !!

God has such a Greater Good for us -
Right in the Midst of those difficult trials & difficulties

All we have to do is stop Demanding that God be our Big Blue Genie

& instead – seek to:

KNOW HIM better

KNOW the Power of His Resurrection

KNOW even the Fellowship of His Suffering

& IF we will – that **Circumstance** or **Trial** that we're in -
will bring us ETERNAL GOOD – ETERNAL BENEFITS . . .

Thru our God who is Working in **THIS CIRCUMSTANCE** -
FOR OUR GOOD – He's Working For Our Good !!!

The Next thing we **MUST UNDERSTAND** about this Vs is . . .

The context – **the theme** - of Paul's message here
IS NOT one of Accomplishment

It's **NOT** “*I Can Accomplish any goal I want
thru Christ who strengthens me*”

That makes Jesus **a super power** to help **you** get what **you** want -
& **THAT** is **NOT** the context - & **THAT** is **NOT** Biblical

The context is "***I can live in ANY circumstances***"

LIT - "*I can live independent of any circumstance
through the One who infuses me with strength*"

Your life in Christ can be filled w/ **Peace & Strength** -
independent of your circumstances

But it's a lesson that seems to only be learned
IN THE MIDST of those **circumstances**

So – **IF** you are in a "Circumstance" . . .

Jesus wants to reveal to you - the secret of how
to live **IN HIM** - Independent of that circumstance

again - Phil 4:13 says

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

Now – **just to Back Up** the ACTUAL MEANING of this Vs
Let me just give you **two LITERAL translations**

Newberry's Greek N.T.

"I am strong for all things in Christ who empowers me"

Phillips Literal

*"I am ready for anything through the strength of the One
who lives within me,"*

This Vs is about the Strength to get thru Any Circumstance

& not JUST Get thru it – But to learn one of the greatest secrets
of the Christian life RIGHT IN THE MIDST OF IT

As the LIT translations say - the secret that you can be:

“Strong For All Things” - that you can be

“Ready For All Things” . . .

Through **THE POWER** of the One who lives **IN YOU** – **AMEN !!**

Guys - when (not if) circumstances come - we must draw on our
“inner resources” of Jesus Christ living in us

& it's at those times that we find - The most important part of our
Christian life is - how deep the strength of Christ goes in our lives

But if we're living a “what can Jesus do for me today” life w/ Christ

Then **when** those difficult times come
we won't have **the resources** to live thru them “In Christ”

But when we've “learned the secret” –
“been initiated” into the understanding

That “In Christ” we can truly live independent of our circumstances

THEN we are - **“ready for anything through the strength of the
One who lives within me,”** – which is **actually** what this verse says

The word “strengthens” in your NKJV – LIT = “to pour power into”

Paul says – **“I can ‘do’ (get thru) all things thru the One who
‘pours power’ into me”**

It is the **Power of Christ** poured (infused) into us - that gives us
the contentment to live independent of our circumstances

This same word which **LIT means** - “to pour power into”
is used in **1Tim 1:12**

1Tim 1:12

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

**Jesus Christ will “Enable You”
to be in that circumstance you are in**

In **1Cor 15** – Paul was talking about his own Apostleship
in comparison to the other Apostles

& I want you to notice two things here;

- 1) Paul labored abundantly (NKJ) (it was very difficult)
- 2) It was NOT his own strength – But God’s strength in him

1Cor 15:9-10 (NLT)

***9 For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I’m not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God’s church.
10 But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.***

We see this truth so clearly in Jn 15:5

Jn 15:5

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

& in 2Cor 3:5

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

The secret that Paul learned - & that we can learn –
is to Abide in Christ - & NOT in our circumstances

then our “Sufficiency” begins to come from Christ
not from our circumstances

& then comes that time of testing – where we are “initiated” into the understanding – that we truly CAN do all things thru Christ who strengthens us

We truly can live Independent of our circumstances IN CHRIST –

Then our lives come – not from our circumstances – but outside of our circumstances – many times in spite of our circumstances !

& what a great secret of Christian Maturity that is –

& what use we can be to God – when we learn to Live In Christ **independent** of our circumstances

HOW ???

HOW do we do this – *“how in the world am I supposed to go from living IN my circumstances - to Living INDEPENDENT of my circumstances ??”*

That’s a great question - - & the answer is NEXT MESSAGE . . .

[For Next Week . . .]

Now – really – this is a “Life’s Journey” isn’t it -

It’s a life’s walk with Jesus – being “transformed” as we go

You know - The 1st time you tell your son or daughter that what they want is not really what’s best for them – they don’t just automatically say *“ok – Dad, I understand, I’ll totally trust you from now on”*

No – it takes a little longer than that, doesn’t it ?

& it doesn’t work like that with God either

The goal of this life is to Know Christ better & better – thru ALL our circumstances learning to trust Him more – learning to depend on Him more – which is really the most wonderful part of this life

So – understanding that God doesn't use the magic wand – quick fix technique we wish He would – there is a process we can enter today that will take us down the road to this Secret discovery that Paul made –

that enabled him to say *“I am ready for anything through the strength of the One who lives within me,”* (**Phil 4:13**, LITERAL)

We got to 1st look at the **“Our-Part Part”** - & the **“God-Part Part”**

Look at the **“I’s”** & look at the **“Christ’s”** in **Vs’s 11-13**

V.11 – **“I have learned”**

V.12 – **“I know”** – **“I know”** – **“I have learned”**

V.13 – **“I AM READY (LIT)”** - - (I can do)

& then look – the **only place Christ** is mentioned – is **V.13**

Now – that doesn't mean that it's ALL UP TO Paul –
it means God has ALREADY done His part

The only part that's left is for us “To Learn” – “To Understand”
“To be Initiated” – “To be Ready”

God's already done His part

The **God part** – IN CHRIST – is really the **ALL in ALL** part

But that concept is generally too big for our brains –
so let's break it down into 3 areas

We see the “God-part part” - in 3 words;
His **Providence**

His Power
His Promise

The 1st source of “God’s Part” is – God’s Providence

providence comes from two Latin words:

pro = “before,” & video = “to see” (to see before hand)

But it’s not that God simply sees beforehand

It means God is AT WORK before hand – in advance –
for the good of all those who are HIS

God’s AT WORK – for your good – ALREADY –
BEFORE this circumstance came crushing into your life

Long before you knew about it – God was already at work –
outside of time - FOR YOUR GOOD !

Working for your good IN THE MIDST of your circumstance -
BEFORE you even know about your circumstance

Psa 32:8-9 (NLT)

8 The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

9 Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.”

& Paul knew – by personal experience – that Rom 8:28 was true

Rom 8:28 (NLT)

28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

This is God’s Providence - & it is God’s Part -

& it should be a huge source of confidence & contentment

The 2nd source of “God’s-Part” is – God’s Power

This is the source of our “Hidden strength” –
God’s power continually infusing us with hidden strength

Here in **Phil 4:13** – the GK is LIT “Who Empowers Me” –
which means to “Pour Power into me”

The most important part of the Great Trees are their roots
sent down deep into the earth to draw up water and minerals

And the most important part of the Christian’s life is sending down
our roots deep into God’s hidden source of Power

God’s Power is there – that’s the **God-Part** –
But sending the roots down to access it – that’s the **Our-Part**

Phil 2:13 (NLT)

13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Eph 1:19-20 (NLT)

19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power

20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.

God’s Part is FINISHED – He desires to Pour His Power into you
to empower you to . . .

“be strong for ALL THINGS - in Christ Who empowers you”

The 3rd source of “God’s Part” is – God’s Promise

God's promises to us are really too many to number -
& definitely too massive to measure

But God's Providence - & God's Power –
are to bring about God's Promises in our lives

That's God's-Part - & He has already fully accomplished it

We see the great promises of God on every page of scripture

Paul - right here – In Phil 4:19 says (next msg) (NLT)

19 And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

& back in Phil 1:6

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

& those incredible promises in **Rom Ch 8**

Rom 8:31-32

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Rom 8:35 & 8:37 (NLT)

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

...

37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

God's promises to us who love Him- are for Ultimate Super-Victory
& He WILL NOT fail us in His Providence – His Power – or His Promises

So the only thing left – for us to grasp the HOW of
“being ready (strong) for ALL circumstance - In Christ Who empowers us”

The only thing left is **the OUR-PART !!!**

Knowing this is a life-long process of transformation -
& knowing there is more than can be said here today . . .

all we can do today – is to review the basics -
to get us started on this supernatural road

Last week – we looked at the importance of our MIND

& how important it is to have the mind
that Paul describes in the 1st part of Phil Ch 4

& really - ALL THRU Philipians
Paul's been addressing the critical importance of **our mind**

& the **“Our-Part Part”** – has everything to do with our **MIND** . . .

For us to **be ready** to ***go thru ALL Circumstances***
IN Christ Who strengthens us . . .

We need to address 3 Issues of our MIND

The 3 Issues of our mind – that the ***Our-Part Part*** –starts with are ;

- 1) Surrendering** our Mind
 - 2) Renewing** our Mind
 - 3) Guarding** our Mind
-

Step #1 – for HOW you can do all things thru Christ
for peace & confidence - independent of your circumstances

#1 - SURRENDER YOUR MIND

Rom 12:1

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies [totality of Self] a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

There's one thing we have got to know -
God WILL NOT Join you - in your own will for your life !!

He knows better – He has the greatest, most wonderful plan
for all of eternity for you - & He's already laid it out for you

His plan is BETTER than yours - & He's already proved it by;
His **Providence** – His **Power** - & His **Promise**

He's already done His Part – to bring His WILL bring it to pass

if you will simply crucify your own will -
& truly surrender your life to God as a living sacrifice . . .

HE WILL BRING HIS GREAT PLAN TO PASS IN YOUR LIFE !

Listen guys – this is for OUR OWN GOOD
to allow God to do what He knows is best for us
to bring about His great plan for us

The **1st Step** is – We must **STOP** fighting God to get our own way
& present ourselves to Him – so that He can take over our life . . .

which (as **Rom 12:1** says) is really our **ONLY** Reasonable response

Step #1 – SURRENDER Your Mind . . .

Step #2 – for HOW you can do all things thru Christ
for peace & confidence - independent of your circumstances

#2 - RENEW YOUR MIND

Rom 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Renew your mind – so that you may “PROVE” (know by testing)
what is God’s good & perfect will for your life . . .

which God WILL bring to pass – Independent of your circumstances!

“**Renew your mind**” means to Renovate – like Renovating a house

So first – you do demolition - & throw all the old junk out
& then you Renovate by bringing ALL NEW stuff in

& **THAT** is exactly what last week’s msg was about –

Renewing your mind BY:

(v.4) Rejoicing in the Lord always

(v.5) Letting your gentleness be known to all

(v.6) Being anxious for nothing,
by Prayer, Supplication, & Thanksgiving
rolling your burdens over to God

(v.7) Letting the Peace of God guard your hearts & minds

(v.8) & **Focusing your mind ONLY on** whatever is;
True - Noble – Just – Pure – Lovely –
of Good Report - Virtuous - & Praise Worthy

Renew your mind – Get a complete Renovation . . .

Renewing your mind comes from 3 basic things:

1) **Daily Prayer** – in the area you need renewal

- 2) **Daily Bible Study** – in the area you need renewal
- 3) **Daily Discipleship** – in the area you need renewal

So - **1ST** - - **SURRENDER Your Mind**
2ND - - **RENEW Your Mind**

**Step #3 – for HOW you can do all things thru Christ
for peace & confidence - independent of your circumstances**

#3 - GUARD YOUR MIND

Your Surrendered MIND - & Your Renewed MIND
has 3 Constant Enemies . . .

Your **Flesh**
The **World**
The **Spiritual Enemy** that desires to destroy you

& your Surrendered & Renewed Mind
will have to be on constant Guard against these 3 enemies

I wish I had time to go into this critical step – but I don't
So let me strongly suggest 3 messages from W-B-M

“Overcoming Spiritual Strongholds”

”Spiritual Warfare – PART 1 & PART 2”

All these msgs come out of Eph Ch 6

& all deal with the DAILY need to guard your heart & mind from
the enemies you have constantly trying to defeat you

For today we'll have to summarize . .

In order to be able to say with Paul in **Phil 4:13**
13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

You've got to begin to live a life characterized by:

- A **Surrendered** Mind
- A **Renewed** Mind
- A **Guarded** Mind

& this mind comes from a DAILY focused Dedication to:

- 1) **Daily Prayer** – in the area you need renewal
- 2) **Daily Bible Study** – in the area you need renewal
- 3) **Daily Discipleship** – in the area you need renewal

You & I can learn to Be Content in ANY circumstance

We can learn the mystery of Living in Peace & Contentment
independent of our external circumstances

We truly can
do all things through Christ who strengthens us

Let's Pray