

# I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST

*Series in a Sentence: Sometimes scripture is taken out of context...so we're going to look at some famous "coffee cup" verses and make sure we understand what God is saying to us.*

## What We Believe About The Bible

*"All Scripture is **inspired by God** and is **useful** to teach us what is **true** and to make us **realize** what is **wrong** in our lives. It **corrects** us when we are wrong and **teaches** us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)*

## I. Today's Verse: Philippians 4:13

*"Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. **For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.** Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty. As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness. At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God."*  
*Philippians 4:11-18 (NLT)*

### • When reading the Bible (or anything) **CONTEXT** is very important to understanding.

- Who's the author?
- What does it say before and after the verse?
- Who's the audience?
- Is there a lesson to be learned?
- What's the reason for the writing?

### • Context for Philippians

- Paul is under house arrest in Rome.
- He hears that the new church in Philippi is struggling...worried, agitated, fighting amongst themselves, stressed.
- So he writes a letter to remind them to trust in Jesus and stop trying to handle things with only their own strength and resources. God never promised an easy life. Of course hard times are natural; so don't let them hurt your faith.

## II. "What's Paul Saying" in Philippians 4:13?

*"I have learned to be content **because** God is always with me. He gives me strength to be at peace in poverty and suffering or with wealth and blessings...whatever my circumstances I'm happy in Jesus Christ... because if God is with me, that's really all that matters."*  
*(Jim's paraphrase)*

- ◆ That's quite different from the "coffee cup" interpretation of God being like a "genie in a bottle" and giving me whatever I wish for.
- ◆ Philippians 4:13 is really about **CONTENTMENT**...the opposite of getting more or achieving more.

## III. Finding Contentment, Happiness, and Joy

- ◆ We get these things by **STAYING CLOSE TO JESUS**.

*[Jesus] "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." John 15:5 (NKJV)*

- ◆ Where are you with Jesus, on a scale from 1 – 10?  
Not Close 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Close

## IV. How Do I Get Close To Jesus?

*"I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your **roots will grow** down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." Ephesians 3:16-19 (NLT)*

### How Can I "Put Down Roots" Into God's Love?

- **READ THE BIBLE** every day.
- **TALK TO GOD** everyday. Make it an ongoing conversation.
- Participate in a **SMALL GROUP**.
- **TITHE** on my income.
- Serve on a **MINISTRY TEAM**.