



Go for God!

“WE CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST!”

Philippians Chapter 4:8-23

- Key verse: Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

~ **Let us learn three ways that CHRIST STRENGTHENS US:**

> **Way #1 - (v8-9) CHRIST STRENGTHENS OUR “CAN DO” MIND!**

(v8-9) **“Meditate on these things”**: THINK! - Make these things the subjects of your thoughtful consideration, or carefully reflect on them.

- **HERE’S HOW CHRIST STRENGTHENS OUR MINDS (Eight Practices):**

(1) **TRUE** – *Truth is found in God (2 Tim. 2:25), in Christ (Eph. 4:20, 21), in the Holy Spirit (John 16:13), and in God’s Word (John 17:17).* (**Antonym** - false, erroneous, contradictory, inaccurate.)

(2) **NOBLE** – *That which is worthy of respect; whatever is worthy adoration.* (**Antonym** -undignified, base, abject.)

(3) **JUST** - *This refers to what is right, to think in harmony with God’s divine standard of holiness.* (**Antonym** -one-sided, partial, inequitable, iniquitous.)

(4) **PURE** - *That which is morally clean and undefiled.* (**Antonym** - impure, filthy, dirty, foul.)

(5) **LOVELY** – *That are pleasing or amiable, whatever is kind or gracious.* (**Antonym** - hideous, horrible disgusting, repugnant.)

(6) **GOOD REPORT** - *That which is highly regarded or thought well of.* (**Antonym** - bad, false, deceptive, half-truths)

(7) **VIRTUE**- *Moral excellence or goodness.* (**Antonym** - vice, sinfulness, evil.)

(8) **PRAISEWORTHY** – *That which is commendable.* (**Antonym** - worthless, foolish, garbage.)

- Remember: Romans 8:5-6 - *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

(v9) Paul shares five principles of Christian discipleship:

1st – Paul TAUGHT they LEARNED;

2ND – Paul SHARED they RECEIVED;

3rd – Paul SPOKE they LISTENED;

4th – Paul EXEMPLIFIED (*saw in me*) the Christian LIFE;

5th – Paul gives the confident command “THESE DO” and the God of peace will be with you.

> Observe these famous quotes regarding EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN:

- Martin Luther said, “I am much afraid that the schools will prove to be the great gates to Hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God, must become corrupt.”

- Adolf Hitler said, “Let me control the textbooks and I will control the state!”

- Noah Webster speaking of men in government- “In selecting men for office. . . look to his character. . . If the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded. . . .When a citizen gives his (vote) to a man of known immorality. . . he betrays the interest of his country.”)

> Way #2 - (v10-13) CHRIST STRENGTHENS OUR “CAN DO” HEART!

(v10) Paul REJOICES IN THE LORD GREATLY!

(11-12) Paul has LEARNED to be CONTENT - That is satisfied, comfortable, pleased, gratified, sanguine, delighted, snug, elated.

(v13) Paul proclaims, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

- Jesus shares in Matthew 17:20-21 - Jesus said, *“for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

- A prime example of discontentment and losing strength is *Samson in Judges chapter 16* - Samson became blind to “contentment” – He then found himself in a bind with the world, then he became a slave to the grind of sin.

> Way #3 - (v14-23) *CHRIST STRENGTHENS OUR “CAN DO” CHARITY!*

(v14-19) Paul gives thanks to the believers in Philippi and complements their generosity; in the scriptures we find examples of giving:

- The nation of Israel gave so generously to the tabernacle in the wilderness, that they had to be told not to give anymore (Ex. 36:6-7).

- When Nehemiah came to rebuild Jerusalem, the people rallied around the clarion call to sacrifice and build the walls in a record-breaking achievement. (Neh. 2:17-18; 4:6; 6:15-16)

- Jesus taught us about the wonderful life of sharing; he said, *“it is more blessed to give than to receive,”* investing in the eternal things of His Kingdom. (Acts 20:35)

- In his book *The Quest For Character, Chuck Swindoll* gives four suggestions for what he calls “Giving with gusto!”

#1 - *Reflect on God’s gifts to you.* Hasn’t He been good? Better than we deserve. Good health. Happy family. Sufficient food, clothing, and shelter. Close friends . . . and so much more.

#2 - *Remind yourself of His promises regarding generosity.* Call to mind a few biblical principles that promise the benefits of sowing bountifully. Bumper crops, don’t forget, are God’s specialty.

#3 - *Examine your heart.* Nobody but you can do this. Open that private vault and ask several hard questions, like:

- Is my giving proportionate to my income?
- Am I motivated by guilt . . . or by contagious joy?

- If someone else knew the level of my giving to God's work, would I be a model to follow?
- Have I prayed about giving . . . or am I just an impulsive responder?

#4 - Trust God to honor consistent generosity. Here's the big step, but it's essential. Go for it! When you really believe God is leading you to make a significant contribution—release your restraint and develop the habit of generosity. I seriously doubt that generosity has ever hurt many people!

(v20-23) Paul's farewell and closing comments, *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."*

Conclusion: *Let's be "Can Do!" Christians: Regarding our minds!
Regarding our hearts!
Regarding our charity!*

- Memory verses: Philippians 4:13 & 4:19