



FOREVER CHANGE MY UNDERSTANDING

Part 3: Philippians 4:13

Grant Fishbook, Teaching Pastor
November 22 & 23, 2014

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

- *Philippians 4:13*

Incorrect and out-of-context assumptions:

- This is a verse for athletes and rappers
- Following Jesus comes with a side of super powers
- I am limitless

Context of this verse:

The author: The Apostle Paul

The author's story: He is writing this from prison in Rome

The audience: The church at Philippi, Greece

Cultural context: Roman colonization

The theme of Philippians: Joy

The conversation: Contentment

Philippians 4:10-13

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

A question:

Could it be that the moment when our contentment is being challenged is the moment we need God's strength the most?

Philippians 4:14-20

¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The “secret” of contentment is found in Philippians 4:19

- The miracle of God’s provision – “my God will meet”
- The measure of God’s provision – “all your needs”
- The might of God’s provision – “according to his riches”
- The means of God’s provision – “Jesus Christ”

Next Steps

God’s promise to meet every need is often accomplished through his Church – especially when people have experienced a medical or financial catastrophe. In the early church, Christians shared generously and sacrificially with those who had needs, and we continue that principle at CTK through the CTK Blessing. If you’d like to give to this fund that meets serious, legitimate needs throughout the year, use the green envelope in today’s program and drop it in the offering or visit ctkbellingham.com/give. Read more about the CTK Blessing on the insert in this program.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Have you ever used Philippians 4:13 to encourage yourself? In what circumstance did you use it?
- 2) In what areas of your life are you discontent? In what areas are you content?
- 3) Paul says, “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...” Can you say that? What are the biggest challenges to your level of contentment?
- 4) If you were to apply Philippians 4:19, how would it change your life right now?
- 5) As you approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, how could choosing contentment change your approach to these celebrations?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?