

How to Do Impossible Things  
Philippians 4:10-13 Exodus 14:10-22  
August 27, 2017

***I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*** (Philippians 4:13, ESV)

1. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is at work in us.

***Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.***

***Ephesians 1:18-20 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,***

***Luke 1:37-38 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.*** (ESV)

2. You have to \_\_\_\_\_ if you want to do all things through Christ.

***Exodus 14:15-16, 21-22 15 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ... 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.***

3. You might not “do all things” the \_\_\_\_\_ you try.  
***Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.***

***Philippians 3:13-14 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.***

4. Problems do not equal \_\_\_\_\_.

Philippians 4:11-12 *11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.*

II Corinthians 11:23b-29 *I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?*

5. I can \_\_\_\_\_ through  
Christ who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.] (AMP)*

6. We can \_\_\_\_\_ through  
Him who strengthens us.

Matthew 28:18-20 *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

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- **INTRO: I can't do this anymore.**  
Too hard. Painful. I'm too tired.
  - Ever said something like that?
  - Sickness.
  - **Job, or Unemployment**
  - **Financial struggles**
  - Relationship (spouse, parents, siblings, kids.)  
No Relationship!
  - **Mourning a loved one. Empty space.**
  - You think you just can't do this.
- Or maybe you're trying to break some harmful habit or habitual sin.
  - You've tried and tried. Everything.
  - **You just can't do it.**
  - Caught in the cycle of sin, confess, repent, repeat.
- Or maybe you have a feeling that that there's something you're supposed to accomplish.
  - Start a business
  - **Write a book**
  - Do better in school or at your job.
  - Some ministry to advance God's Kingdom and help people.  
(Teach, prayer ministry, witness [to family], lead ...)
  - **Make a difference in other people's lives.**
  - But you think you're not **smart** enough,  
or **talented** enough,  
or don't have the **money** or the **time**,  
or the **support** of others.
  - You want to do it desperately, but you just can't.

- Maybe you want to make a change in your own life.
- 4 people at Woodbury have lost a combined total of 240 lbs!

1. God's power is at work in us.

**Ephesians 3:20-21 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.***

- **And what power is that?**

**Ephesians 1:18-20 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,***

**Luke 1:37-38 37 *For nothing will be impossible with God.* 38 *And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."* And the angel departed from her. (ESV)**

- **But notice how Mary co-operated with the Holy Spirit. 9 Months pregnancy, risked her engagement, reputation.**

2. You have to do something if you want to do all things through Christ.

- **Mother Teresa "I'm a pencil in the hand of God." God did great things through her. She did a lot! Washed lepers, raised money, administered the convent, went around the world speaking.**

Exodus 14:15-16, 21-22 *15 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ... 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.*

- Notice the steps in parting the Red Sea.
- 1. Move on! (Moses said “Stand still.”)
- 2. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand.
- 3. It wasn’t until verse 21, when Moses obeyed, that the sea parted.
  
- Reformed Christians can trust the sovereignty of God and just “let God do it.”
- Spirit-filled Christians can rely on the Spirit so much that, instead of cooperating with the Spirit, we become completely passive.
- Most of the time, we have to invest. We have to sweat.
  
- God parted the Red Sea, but Moses had to hold the stick.
- Joshua crossing the Jordan (Joshua 3:15-16)
- Joshua marching around Jericho (Joshua 6)
- Jesus turning water into wine. (John 2:8)
- 10 Lepers (Luke 17:14 “As they went they were cleansed.”)
  
- We have many excuses for not acting.  
(Overwhelmed. No resources. No support. No time. Being misunderstood ...)
- Some people believe a good excuse is almost as good as success.
- Often the real “excuse” is lack of faith. (Water, wall, sickness)

- Tell someone, “I made my last excuse yesterday.”
- Now say “I can do all things ... through Him who strengthens me.” ‘/, ‘/, .

3. You might not “do all things” the first time you try.  
 Luke 18:1 ***Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.***

Philippians 3:13-14 ***Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.***

- Like with prayer, it takes persistence.
- Thomas Edison said, “I didn’t fail 1,000 times, it just took 1001 steps to invent the light bulb.
- Wright Brothers
- Baseball players
- Edison, the Wright brothers and so many other people accomplished amazing things through sustained human effort.

Some high achievers would (wrongly) boast that God had nothing to do with their success.

But if they can do that with mere human power, what can you and I do through Christ who gives us strength?

- D. James Kennedy
- Don’t dare give up. You can do all things ...

4. Problems do *not* equal failure.

- Paul was in prison when he wrote these words. He was contemplating his own death.

Philippians 4:11-12 ***<sup>11</sup>Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup>I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have***

***learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.***

■ **Look at Paul's trials.**

***II Corinthians 11:23b-29 I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?***

■ **I've had my feelings hurt! Wah.**

■ **You will face problems, trials and challenges.**

■ **But you can do all things through Him who gives you strength.**

5. I can \_\_\_\_\_  
through Christ who gives me strength.

***Philippians 4:13 I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.] (AMP)***

- Breathe out “I can do all things” and imagine good things flowing out from you.
  - Breathe in “through Him who strengthens me” and experience the power of Christ flowing into you by the Holy Spirit.
  - There are people who desperately need what you have to offer.
  - What only you can give.
  - What only you can do, through Him who gives you strength.
  - Will you do it?
- 
- Imagine all of us doing everything He calls us to do by the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - Imagine all of us investing, sweating, working in the power of the Holy Spirit.
6. We can reach east Orange County through Him who strengthens us.

Matthew 28:18-20 ***Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”***

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