WE CAN DO IT!
(Philippians 4:13)

1. I - the person involved.
   a. This is not a verse teaching us about the whole church, elders, preachers, deacons, or any group.
   b. It is a personal verse - it is about me when I read it and about you when you read it.
   c. It would help everyone deeply if we would read the Bible in a personal way.
      i. Make John 3:16 personal by putting in your name.
      ii. For God so loved Ben...
      iii. Make Romans 5:8 personal.
      iv. But God commendeth His love towards Ben...
      v. Revelation 2:10 needs to be personal.
   d. This verse is personal.
      i. No one else can do the work for us that we are to do.
      ii. Individual effort by each person is what is required.
   e. No one can do our work for us.
      i. No one can do our praying for us.
      ii. No one can do our evangelizing for us.
      iii. No one can do our giving for us.
      iv. You and I, like Paul also told the Philippians, must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).
   f. Christianity is a very personal religion.
      i. No one will go to heaven or hell for us.
      ii. We will be saved or lost based on our being faithful or unfaithful, not anyone else.
   g. The person involved is me.

2. Can do - the positive attitude.
   a. Paul was not negative here in any way.
   b. Henry Ford once said: “Success begins with I can. Failure with I can’t!”
   c. Think of the successful life of Paul.
      i. He was able to overcome his prejudice against Christianity.
      ii. He was able to overcome his prejudice against Gentiles.
      iii. He converted many to Christ.
      iv. He endured great hardships for the Lord.
      v. He was ultimately a martyr.
   d. Paul did not win every soul he met but he didn’t quit.
   e. No where in scripture do we read of Paul being negative in any way.
      i. There were times he thought he might die (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).
      ii. But even then, he trusted in God (2 Corinthians 1:10).
   f. If you look at the history of our great brotherhood, great things have been accomplished.
      i. Remember what the brother told Neil about Pearl Harbor, that they would have the money by Christmas?
      ii. That is a can do attitude.
   g. We need to grab hold of the power of Romans 8:31 and allow it to change our
attitudes if this is something with which we struggle.

3. All things - percent of things accomplished.
   a. Again, this is not talking about things of a secular nature.
      i. We aren’t going to jump higher or sell more or be better at math or whatever.
      ii. God is not going to allow us to win a sporting contest or win the heart of the object of our affection.
   b. Notice the context of this verse.
      ii. He is talking about their care for him while he is in prison.
      iii. He then talks about the fact he has learned to be content in the situations in which he finds himself.
   c. Paul is telling us that spiritually speaking, we can learn to do what we have to do in whatever situation comes our way.
   d. If there is work for the Lord to be done, no matter what, we can accomplish it if it is according to His will.
      i. We simply have to do our part.
      ii. Our part is not baptizing people, it is sowing the seed.
      iii. Our part is not making other people obedient, it is being obedient ourselves.
   e. We can do whatever is before us spiritually speaking.

4. Through Christ - power by which we accomplish things.
   a. We can accomplish any spiritual thing because of the power that is available to us.
   b. Hess wrote, “You may not be the strongest or the greatest, Your presence may not even count at all; But when you put your trust in Jesus’ power, You are assured He’ll never let you fall.”
      i. There is the greatest power known to man available for us as we seek to serve God.
      ii. The word power is the same one found in Romans 1:16 from which we get our word “dynamite”.
      iii. This simply shows us the amount of power that is available.
      iv. Paul earlier described it as the “exceeding greatness of his power” (Ephesians 1:19).
   d. We have this power constantly with us as faithful children of God (Hebrews 13:5).
   e. You and I alone are nothing, but with Christ, we can and will accomplish great things.

5. Which strengtheneth me - the process.
   a. We will do great things for the Lord as we are strengthened by Him.
   b. The question is: How is that accomplished?
      i. Ephesians 3:16 answers that for us.
      ii. The Spirit does it by means of the word of God.
      iii. Notice verse 17 - in order for Christ to dwell in our hearts by faith.
      iv. Faith only comes by hearing God’s word (Romans 10:17).
c. When you and I take in God's word, we will be strengthened.

  d. As we grow, we can accomplish those tasks that seem daunting to us.

    i. We can evangelize, and we will want to do so.
    
    ii. We can be faithful in hard times, and we will want to do so.
    
    iii. On and on we can go.

  e. A preacher from a long time ago, wrote, “Do not pray for easy lives, pray to be stronger people; do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your tasks.”

  f. We will have those powers as we are strengthened by the Lord through a study of His word and will.