

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.
 - i.Philippians 4:10-13.
 - 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."
- c.Ephesians 3:20.
 - 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.