

# PHILIPPIANS Lesson 50

## Chapter 4, verses 8-13: I Can Do All Things that the Lord Wants Me to Do

10 April 2023

*“<sup>11</sup> I have learned...to be content.”*

Some people draw closer to God whenever they are facing a trial. But they drift away from God when things are going well.

Other people stay happy and continue to fellowship with God as long as things are going well, but they drift away when the good times turn to bad times.

Paul had learned to be content in every circumstance because he had devoted his life to the service of Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- The Lord never promised that we would never see bad times. We need to find our contentment in Him so that our circumstances don't affect our walk with Him.

*“<sup>12</sup> I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”*

- The Holy Spirit can teach you to be content in every circumstance, good or bad.

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*“<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*

- **“All things”** must be applied in the context of this passage. This rule must be applied to all of God's promises. As soon as you take a verse out of its context, it ceases to be true.
  - Jesus Christ will not enable you to fly. That is not in the passage.
  - Jesus Christ will not enable you to get rich. That is not the subject of Paul's discourse here.
  - Quoting Philippians 4:13 will not miraculously enable you to do the impossible.

### **THE CONTEXT “All things”**

**“Whatsoever things are true”** (vs 8).

**“Those things, which ye have learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me”** (vs 9).

- If you desire to do any of these things, the Lord's promise is that he will enable you to accomplish them.

**“Whatsoever things are true”**

- The Lord Jesus Christ can enable me to keep my mind on truth. This is not possible without Him.

**“Whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report”**

- Here is a long list of things that would be impossible to keep your mind focused on if it were not for Jesus Christ strengthening you. Only the Lord can give us the spiritual focus we desire.
- You may feel that you could never be as spiritually minded as the apostle Paul. You can be, but only through Christ Jesus who strengthens those who have that desire.
  - Your unwillingness to live a life that is dedicated to the things of God is the only thing that will hinder the Lord's efforts to enable you.
  - Christ will strengthen you to think, act, walk, and talk like a born-again Child of God. But you've got to want that.