




Christ Who Strengthens


I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ~ Philippians 4:13

Discover the Context
Philippians 4:10-20

 What does it mean to be able to do all things? Is this a free license to do anything you want to do and expect that Christ will help you out? How do you distinguish the difference between what you want to do (your will) and what God wants you to do (God's will)?

 "The root of all steadfastness is in the consecration to God."
~ Alexander MacLaren
(1826-19010)

 Do you relate more to the first paragraph or to the second paragraph of today's devotion? Identify at least one specific way you can apply today's vers, and share it with your accountability or prayer partner.

 Dear Father, lift me up, for I am weak. Carry me on, for I am weary. Forgive me for attempting to do Your work in my own strength. Help me to look to the one who promises to strengthen me in all things. Amen.

Are you tired? Are you worn out from the daily tasks of camp ministry? Are you tempted to quit or at least give less of yourself in order to make it a few more weeks? If so, stop and re-read today's verse.

Are you doing well? Do people look to you for guidance? Do you think that you are doing a good job and that God should reward you? Are you feeling pretty good about your service to camp? If so, stop and re-read today's verse.

Whether you are weary and weak from hard ministry, or pumped up because you feel like you can do anything, Philippians 4:13 is just for you. If you are tired and don't think you can make another week of grueling service—supervising another rowdy group of campers or cooking another meal in the hot kitchen—remember that it is Christ who strengthens you. Although it is imperative for you to use your time off wisely, that is not what will renew your strength or refresh your spirit. It is ultimately Christ who is going to get you through the tough summer doldrums that remain.

If you are doing well and think that you are the model staffer, remember that it is not you who is to be praised (sorry if that bursts your bubble). Demonstrate integrity by giving praise to God, for it is He alone who has gifted you and who enables you to serve. Don't forget for a minute that without Christ you can do nothing (John 15:5).

Paul was content in any circumstance in which the Lord placed him (Philippians 4:11). Whether it was a time of plenty or a situation of suffering, Paul knew that it was Christ alone who was going to get him through it in a way that brought glory to God. Yes, you will need to keep laboring and working and serving, but the emphasis is not on you, it's on Christ. Whatever difficulty will arise today, remember that it was prepared just for you by God, and He intends to strengthen you for whatever He has in store for you. Don't rely on your own strength, and guard your heart from taking the praise to yourself. [BHK]