

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). The “can do” attitude. In the context Paul is referring to his ability to be content in any situation. *“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need”* (Philippians 4:10-12). The apostle Paul had a positive attitude. The apostle Paul knew that no matter what came his way he could get through it because the source of his strength was through or in Jesus Christ. *“At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion”* (2 Timothy 4:16-17). The word “strengthened” here is the same as “strengtheneth” in Philippians 4:13. This is something we as Christians need to always keep in mind. I know I can because through or in Christ I become empowered, that is, I become able or capable. We need a positive attitude. *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”* (Romans 8:31). In this lesson we want to look at three things concerning “I know I can.” (1) I know I can bear up under. (2) I know I can bear the sword of the Lord. (3) I know I can bear fruit.

I Know I Can Bear Up Under

Like the apostle Paul no matter what the situation, good or bad, I know I can endure it, get through it and make it work for the cause of Christ. *“But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the*

things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel” (Philippians 1:12). *“Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory”* (2 Timothy 2:10). In any given situation (as long as it’s not sinful situation) I know I can be what God wants me to be, I can live the way God wants me to live and I can be the example that God wants me to be. Those recorded in Hebrews 11:32-39 show me that I can do it! I know I can because they did and God has provided some better things for us (Hebrews 11:40). It doesn’t make a difference what it is; having a lot or having nothing; persecution or distress; life or death, whatever, I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:35-39). This is the positive attitude we need. There is only one thing that matters and that is seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Everything else takes a back seat to it (Luke 9:57-62: 14:25-35). Even life itself doesn’t really matter (Acts 20:22-24).

I Know I Can Bear The Sword Of The Lord

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10). The word “strong” here is the same word as “strengtheneth” in Philippians 4:13. I know I can

be the soldier that Christ wants me to be. God has given me all I need to fight the good fight of faith (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 6:12). *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Ephesians 6:11-17). I know I can carry the gospel to the lost. I know I can because Jesus said I could, in fact, He said I must (Matthew 28:19-20) therefore I know I can. The Lord did it (Luke 19:10). The first century Christians did it (Acts 8:4). Why can’t I? I know I can bear the sword of the Lord against the Devil because that’s what Jesus did (Matthew 4) and it worked. But these things require me to know the sword and how to use the sword. The Bible says that we are to be ready to give answer to every man (1 Peter 3:15) but it also says that we need to know how to answer every man (Colossians 4:6). That will take diligence (2 Timothy 2:15). I know I can be a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:3).

I Know I Can Bear Fruit

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As

the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:1-6). Jesus says without or apart from me you can’t do it but in me you can. *“Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth”* (Colossians 1:4-6). Those outside of Christ and unfaithful Christians can’t bear fruit for Christ (Romans 7:4). You gotta be connected to the vine and stay connected to bear fruit for Christ. When one obeys the gospel God connects them to the vine (Galatians 3:27; Acts 2:47) and when they become unfaithful they lose their connection. *“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire”* (2 Peter 2:20-22). When Demas forsook the Lord could he continue to bear fruit for the Lord (2 Timothy 4:10)? He was a fruit bearer before he left (Philemon 24). What fruit am I referring to? Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9). Fruit of righteousness (James 3:18; Philippians

1:11). Christians producing Christians. The good soil produces fruit (Matthew 13:23).

The little engine that could said, “I think I can.” The Christian says, “I know I can.” Why? Listen to these verses and you tell me. *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”* (Revelation 12:11). *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world”* (1 John 4:4). *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”* (Hebrews 13:5-6). Like the Psalmist I can say, *“My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth”* (Psalm 121:2). *“I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower”* (Psalm 18:1-2). What more do we need? With that, “I know I can.”

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the
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“I Know”

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I Know...

I Can

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