

# THROUGH CHRIST

## Philippians 4

Whatever the:  
place or the  
situation,  
it doesn't matter whether I have,  
much or  
nothing

Because,

Christ is my provision.  
He is not subject to the:  
place or  
situation.  
He is not dependent on the,  
much or  
little that I have

<sup>11</sup> Not that I was ever in need, for I have **learned** how to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I **know** how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have **learned** the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. <sup>13</sup> For I can do everything **through Christ**,<sup>[d]</sup> who gives me strength.

We can spiritually and physically, in every situation, do everything THROUGH Christ. EVERYTHING here means any situation/thing/season, spiritual/physical, that Christ has provided strength for. For us believers who live for the glory of God, this is an open cheque. We can do everything through Christ.

THROUGH Christ also implies a yielded life.

When we yield, the Spirit of wisdom reveals this secret to us, and we are transformed into Christ dependant beings. This yielding pushes us out of the sphere of human effort and into the sphere of dependence on Christ.

The influence of the physical/mortal man diminishes and that of the spirit man increases, and in that state of mortal weakness, the strength of Christ is made perfect as it powers us into doing everything.

We have Paul as a model in this area. In 2 Cor 11:22-27, Paul, reluctantly and very modestly, gives us a personal account of the learning that led to the knowledge of the secret. He intentionally leaves out a lot of detail and focuses on his weaknesses, which amplify the strength from Christ.

He tells of

- Imprisonments, Whipping, beating with rods, stoning (by people who knew how to stone to death – probably the “caught up to the third heaven” moment?),
- Shipwrecks and drifting at sea, probably just holding on to a plank a whole night and day (not including the later shipwreck on his way to Rome)
- Long journeys, risk of drowning in rivers, being robbed, sleepless nights probably tentmaking to provide for himself.
- Hungry, thirsty, without enough clothing and shivering through freezing nights

To us who believe, these are great testimonies of Christ's power being made perfect/manifest.

When we rely on Christ for strength, our spiritual authority manifests in the physical and we become winners in both spiritual and physical realities.

That's why I am completely convinced that Christ's strength can physically manifest in our situations.

How can we explain:

- a man be stoned to death and then after being prayed for, stand and walks back to that city? Stoning in those days meant stoning to kill!
- Adrift for 24 hours in the sea
- Prison doors opening

- Being bitten by a venomous snake with nothing happening

This is the manifest power of Christ. Physical intervention in our hour of need.

May God light through your darkest moments, may God carry you in your weakest moments, may God speak for you when you cannot say a word, may God physically move obstacles from your way, may God hold off everything directed your way by the enemy, protect you as you drive on the roads, protect you from falling objects and projectiles, on the waters and in the air, may the manifold grace of God cover and be known to you and those around you.

Thanksgiving: Let's thank God for the grace that he has extended to our children, and their children. God has marked them with His Spirit, and they will always find favour in their going out and in their coming back. Wherever they go, they shall always be able to find their way back home. They will call out Abba, Father and God will answer in the mighty name of Jesus.