

Philippians 12 – Strength for Every Assignment

Dr. John Carmichael

[Phi 4:13 NASB95] 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

- A lamp without a power source is just decoration. But once it's plugged in, it lights up the room. You're not called to shine by yourself. You're connected to a divine source.
- The Apostle Paul writes these words from prison, not from comfort. His statement isn't rooted in ego but in the enabling power of Christ.
- This isn't a motivational quote. This is a Holy Spirit declaration: "I can do all things; not by talent, but by His strength."
- A defense of the triumphant aspect of this verse:
 - "After saying that he had learned contentment under every condition, and telling that he had known so many varieties and extremes of condition; it being implied that he was uninfluenced by any of them; he adds, in earnest and final summation; Not these alone, but all things I can do in Him strengthening me. It is also to be borne in mind that this ability came not from his commission as an apostle, but from his faith as a saint. The endowment was not of miracle, but of grace." (J. Eadie)
 - Greek, "I have strength for all things "; not merely "how to be abased and how to abound." After special instances he declares his universal power. How triumphantly, yet how humbly! (Meyer)
 - The Greek word translated "all things" is in emphatic position at the beginning of the Greek sentence. (NET Bible Notes)
 - **Therefore, it is not taken out of context to understand this verse as a Spirit-empowered Christ-centered declaration of faith and triumph.**
- Too many believers feel overwhelmed, underqualified, or worn out. But Paul reminds us: we're not running on our own strength. We're backed by the Spirit of the Living God.

What does this verse teach Spirit-empowered believers about having strength for every assignment?

Here are three takeaways from this verse about having strength for every assignment.

I. You're Assigned by God; Not Defined by Limits

- a. Philippians 4:13
- b. Paul says "I can do...", not "I'll try to do." When God gives you an assignment, He gives you the ability.
- c. The Holy Spirit doesn't ask if you're able. He makes you able.
- d. God has designed you for good works. [Eph 2:10 NASB95] 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
- e. You tap into the power, by what you speak. [Jer 1:6-8 NASB95] 6 Then I said, "Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, Because I am a youth." 7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak. 8 "Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD.
- f. Identify the assignments you've been avoiding out of fear or insecurity. Speak this verse daily: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Take one bold step of obedience in your calling this week.

II. You're Backed by Christ: The Anointed One

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- a. “Him” is referring to Christ Jesus. See: [1Ti 1:12 NASB95] 12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,
- b. The word “Christ” means the Anointed One and His anointing. The Greek word Christos literally means “Anointed One” (Strong’s G5547), referring to Jesus as the divinely appointed and empowered Messiah. In Pentecostal theology, this title often carries the expanded interpretation “the Anointed One and His anointing,” emphasizing the believer’s participation in the Spirit-empowered ministry of Christ (cf. Hagin, The Anointing).
- c. GR: infuses strength into me (Vincent’s Word Studies)
- d. You’re not walking in human strength. You’re walking in divine empowerment.
- e. Spirit baptism connects you to the same anointing that raised Jesus from the grave and launched His ministry.
- f. [Act 10:38 NASB95] 38 “[You know of] Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and [how] He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
- g. [1Jo 2:27 NASB95] 27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.
- h. Ask the Holy Spirit each day for fresh strength to fulfill your assignment. Speak in tongues to build yourself up in the Spirit (Jude 20). Surround yourself with people who stir up the anointing in your life.

III. The Spirit Empowers You to Endure and Thrive

- a. Paul’s “I can” wasn’t just about doing miracles. It was about enduring hardship and thriving in any circumstance.
- b. The anointing doesn’t just lift burdens. It gives power to keep going when others quit.
- c. The phrase “who gives me strength” is the Greek word endunamounti, literally “who empowers me.” Our ability to do what God desires and has in store for us comes not from our own ability, creativity or spirituality, but from His enabling power. (D. Stamps)
- d. Humility equals a declaration of dependence upon Him. [2Co 12:9 NASB95] 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
- e. [Isa 40:31 NASB95] 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up [with] wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.
- f. Don’t confuse tiredness with failure. Pray in the Spirit for renewal. Track your testimony. Remember how God has carried you before. Confess: “God’s strength is working in my weakness.”

- **Who God assigns, He anoints; and what He calls you to do, He empowers you to finish through the strength of the Spirit.**
- **Paul’s bold statement was not self-confidence. It was Spirit-confidence.**
- **You may feel like quitting, but the Spirit says, “You can.”**
- **You may feel inadequate, but Christ says, “I will strengthen you.”**
- **You are not limited by your ability. You are backed by His anointing.**
- **And if God called you to it, He’s going to carry you through it.**