



Sermon Transcription • Philippians 4:10-13

The Secret of Contentment

Pastor Jeff Bucknam

[Please Note: This transcript has been lightly edited for ease of reading. Also, some headings have been added in square brackets to aid the reader in locating portions of the sermon.]

You might know the verse Philippians 4:13, in fact some of you might have it on your t-shirts or your wristbands. It's one of those verses that people often like to take and place on their mirror. It's a bit of a mantra - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." It's very popular in the sporting world. Steph Curry is the name of a professional basketball player. I've been told that he is the best player ever. That's a lie, Larry Bird was better than him [laughter], but I'm old, so it doesn't count, apparently. Philippians 4:13 is on his shoe. In fact, I've got a picture here of-- he has it stitched on his shoe (Steph Curry's shoe) and that is the tongue of the shoe and on the back of it it says, "I can do all things..." There are some pictures, in fact, online of him having written that all over his very expensive shoes that all the kids want. He was asked at one point about the quote and he said, "It represents a Bible verse - Philippians 4:13. It says, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' It's also my mantra. It's how I get up for games and why I play the way I do." For Steph Curry, Philippians 4:13 is a verse that guarantees Christ's presence and help when he's trying to shoot his jump shots, right? Goes in, Jesus was in it, I'm not sure what happens when it misses, but it's there to empower. He's not alone. Steph Curry is not the first person, nor will he be the last, who puts that particular verse on his athletic apparel. You might remember the name Evander Holyfield. If you don't know, he's the guy who got his ear bit off by Mike Tyson back in the 90's. He was a fighter. On his shorts, I have a picture of his shorts that he used to wear in the ring, you can see there in the corner, it says, "Phil 4:13" right next to, "Real Deal" [laughter]. So, when he's punching guys in the mouth, that's not just him doing that, that's the Lord Jesus punching people right in the chops. Tim Tebow is a name that you'll know (kneeling Tim). He used to play professional football but he plays baseball now. He used to wear it on these eye black things. You can buy these, actually, these little eye black things underneath his eyes that said, "Philippians 4:13." This is the cover of *Sports Illustrated* magazine. So when he comes and runs over the linebacker to go in the end zone, you'll know that that's the Lord Jesus who is making him do that. "I can do all things...score touchdowns, make three-point shots. I can do all things...achieve my dream... through Christ who strengthens me." You can get t-shirts with this. I like this picture of a guy with the tats on with "I can do all things through him who strengthens me," which of course I would be claiming when I got my tattoos because that would hurt [laughter].

The *Babylon Bee* is a website that I would recommend to you if you like satire. Listen, it is a satirical website, so don't take anything it says seriously. It's Christians making fun of ourselves for our subculture, okay? Which is a very healthy thing because we should make fun of ourselves from time to time. Anyway, the *Babylon Bee* had an article (fake article) that was titled this:



[Headline:] Worship leader invokes Philippians 4:13 to fit into skinny jeans” [laughter]. [Here’s the first paragraph of that:] “When worship leader Brad “Hotbox” Jackson [laughter] [sorry] found himself in the uncomfortable predicament of being unable to fit into his size 30 Levi 513 skinny jeans Sunday morning, the guitarist/vocalist reportedly evoked God’s promise in Philippians 4:13 that, he could do all things through Christ who strengthens him, including squeeze into pants that are three sizes too small [laughter].

Is that what it means? You can probably guess by the fact that I’m making fun that... probably not. Like, if you’re going to read this passage in context-- and we’re all agreed at this point that the Bible was written by people to other people in particular historical circumstances with particular agendas. It is has meaning according to what the author intends it to mean and the goal when we study it is to figure out, “Okay, what did the author mean by what he says to that particular audience in his particular circumstance?” If you study it that way and you look at its literary context, its historical and cultural context, if you do that, does Philippians 4:13 guarantee that you can punch people in the mouth, or hit that jump shot, or achieve your dream? Is that what it is saying? That Jesus will be with you and promises to help you do all things no matter what they are? It’s better than that. To be honest with you, this passage is one of the most misinterpreted passages in the entire Bible and yet it is so much better than what people misinterpret it to be, okay? Philippians 4:13, in fact, Philippians 4:10-13, is a passage that guarantees the secret of contentment. This is a secret you should want to know. We’re not a very content bunch, right? We like to whine a lot. “God, I wish I had more money.” “God, I wish my car was better.” “God, I wish my health was better.” “God, it’s warmer in Hawaii today and I’m stuck here.” “Lord, Lord, Lord, why, why, why?” We are not a very content bunch and yet Paul, in this passage, is going to tell you the secret of contentment. You should want to know this. So here’s how I want to do this. I just have two points that I want to make in this passage:

1. The Secret of Contentment is Jesus
2. The Secret of Contentment is Learned

[The Secret of Contentment is Jesus]

Okay, so let’s look at the passage together. Here’s the first part of that: the secret of contentment is Jesus. I’m just going to walk through this passage with you, just to give you some of the historical background and help you understand what it is that’s going on and why it is that he says what he says. Philippians 4:10,

“I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.”

Okay let us stop there. Paul is, like I said, in a particular circumstance. The question you should be asking is: what’s going on in the background here? You can find that out by going earlier on in the book of Philippians. In fact, Philippians 1:12-13 tells you what is going on with Paul. Listen:



“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. [What has happened to you, Paul?] As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.”

So here's Paul, he is imprisoned in some way in chains for Christ and the palace guard (a high ranking military escort, basically) is accompanying him in such a way that they have learned about Jesus through his lips. There were four different ways that the Romans used to take people into custody, right? The police, the Roman police, would take people into custody. The first way was that they would just throw you into prison. Like, if they were pretty sure that you were a nasty guy, they would throw you into prison. And when I say “prison,” please don't think of iron bars and a toilet in the corner with a sink and a bunk bed and the guy on the top bunk has been there for twenty years and you're scared of him. That's not what we are talking about. In Roman prisons it was basically a hole in the ground with as many people in that hole as they could fit, sometimes chained to the wall if you were a particularly violent or threatening kind of guy. The only way that you had a chance to continue your life was if people from the outside came and provided for you with a blanket, food - there were no three meals a day in Roman prisons. Your bathroom was where you stood. You could be imprisoned like that. Paul, at times, was imprisoned like that. That's the first way that Romans took people into custody. The second way the Romans took people into custody was house arrest. This a little better, but still, when you were on house arrest, you had a more private space, a little bit bigger, you were there usually alone, except for the guard who was always chained to you either by foot or by arm or whatever. The guard was always with you. Again, your friends would have to provide you with all of the stuff that you need for life - food, clothing, company. The only person you had to talk to was the guard, so if you needed anything else they would have to bring it to you. These guards would be rotated out every few hours. The third way that you could be taken into custody was actually just given an escort who was known, somebody who says, “Look, I'll vouch for him and I'll make sure that I look after him.” You'd be able to go out in public. The fourth way was just being released under your own recognizance. That doesn't mean you are not guilty, it just means that we don't think you are a massive threat to run or anything. These are the four different ways.

What's happening here in Philippians, most scholars say, is that number two is going on. Paul is not in the hole in the ground, but he's probably in Rome in some sort of small space, right? When I say “house arrest,” please don't think a two story home with indoor plumbing. He's in a spot, but he is always chained to a guard. How would you like to be chained to the Apostle Paul, who has as his singular goal in life to preach the gospel to anyone nearby? Like, that's a duty for you, right? Every four hours, every day, you'd show up and he'd preach to you again. It's funny, at the end of the book of Philippians it says that, “Those of Caesar's household greet you, Philippians.” In other words, these guys have been chained to him all this time, so much so that they finally believe, probably out of pure exhaustion. “Okay already, stop.” You've got to picture that. Paul is in this cell in a house, chained to a guard and needs all of his needs met. He needs to have food, he needs to have friends, he needs to have clothing from somebody else who is going to come in. Enter, the Philippians. Philippians 4:10 again,

“I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me...”



What does he mean, “renewed your concern?” I know what he means because if you keep reading in Philippians 4, here’s what it says in 4:18. Basically he received a care package.

“I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

The church gave him a box of Doritos. I say that because my warmest memory of a care package that I ever received in my life included two bags of cool ranch Doritos [laughter]. I was in Austria at the time as about a nineteen year-old kid, first time out of the United States for any kind of significant reason, flown on an airplane all the way over there, went to Bible College there for a number of months. I did not realize when I went to Europe in the 90’s that you could not get most American types of foods. They had their own kind of chips and things like squid flavour and ewww, I am a picky eater and I was not into that whole scene at all. The chocolate, clearly, I loved, [laughter] right? But the rest of it I didn’t connect with at all. A lot of rye bread. I don’t like rye bread. Anyway, about four months into my time there there was a couple from my church in Seattle who were traveling through Europe and they came, unannounced, to this school. I get called to the front of the school by the receptionist, I came through the door, and I saw this couple. The guy was one of my youth leaders and his wife was there and they had a big smile and box in their hands. I said, “What are you doing here?” They said, “Well listen, we were traveling through and we knew that you were here, we just wanted to stop by. Look what we brought.” I open up this box, there was other stuff in there, I’m sure there was something else, but the two things I saw were two blue bags of Cool Ranch Doritos that were gone within the next hour. I ate them all. I didn’t share with anybody. I just pounded those things and I was so happy. I’m not a hugger and I remember walking around the campus of the school just kind of with my arm on this guy the whole time. Every once and awhile, “Awe, just come here. I just...” He’s like, “You smell like Doritos.” “It’s okay,” you know?

That joy that you get-- have you ever received a care package? That joy that you get over like, “I needed this. I am so happy that you provided it.” Now amplify that a little bit for Paul in prison and he receives a care package from this church. Not only does he know now that they like him and they are thinking about him, but they are thinking about him enough to actually act out on it. “I rejoice in the Lord greatly that at last you have revived your concern for me.” But he doesn’t want to give them the wrong idea. I mean, he’s really thankful to get the gift, but he doesn’t need it. Listen to what it says in Philippians 4:11,

“I’m not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

That little word “content” is really important. “I know the secret of being content.” The word is used here and it’s a special word in Greek philosophy. It’s a special word used by the Stoics in Greek



philosophy. If you were a Stoic, the goal of your life is to reach a point where you are unmoved by the circumstances around you. It doesn't matter what happens. You've got one foot in the grave but it doesn't affect you at all. Stiff upper lip. If you win the lottery it doesn't affect you. You're happy, but stiff upper lip. British, just "Hmmm." Stoic, steady, consistent.

There's a guy named Seneca who was a Roman statesman. Seneca had no friends. We're not entirely sure why. I think some of the material in the ancient world is that he wasn't really a nice guy, right? But Seneca, when he was asked, "Why is it that you have no friends?" he responded by saying, "Others may need them but not me. I am self-sufficient." Now, you and I hear that and go, "Well, that's kind of pompous." Actually, in that day, that was the goal. He is basically saying, "I have achieved the level of maturity, I have learned the secret of contentment, meaning that within myself I have all the necessary things that I need for my life. I don't need anything else around. I am stoic, mature."

There's a poem later, later time, okay? Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem called 'If.' This is much later in history, but the part of the poem 'If' is actually written on the doorway above center court in Wimbledon. In fact, I could show you a picture of it as you walk on to center court. When you walk onto center court, all you aspiring tennis stars, this is what you will see. Above the door, it reads, as you can see there,

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same...[here's the end of the poem] Yours is the earth and everything in it... And - which is more - you'll be a man, my son."

So, you'll be a man when you get to the point where walking onto Wimbledon is neither going to be a great joy or great sorrow, because whether win or whether we lose, it doesn't matter. You will have learned the secret of contentment. You will learn how to have a stiff upper lip. So typically that that would be in the British Grand Slam, right?

Before we are too rough though, on the Stoics, let's at least admit that they were onto something here. That if we were really honest with ourselves, that is a secret. That steadiness is a secret that most of us would probably do well to know. Just think about that. If I had the secret of contentment and I could tell you, "Listen, here it is. I've got a secret that means you'll be able to face whatever circumstance in your life with this same kind of steadiness and confidence, no matter whether it's good or bad," wouldn't you want to know that?

My son's basketball team had a really interesting time this week. They were in a tournament and they were playing the team that won the provincial title the year before. They were not supposed to do very well. They took that team to overtime and were ahead by four points with twenty-five seconds left and the ball and they lost by a point. It was the refs. [laughter] Just kidding, it wasn't the refs. I mean, it was probably the refs, but I wasn't there, actually [laughter]. So, my wife was there and she said that afterwards they wanted to go and commiserate over a Big Mac, so a bunch of kids get in the car and she said, "It was so weird because none of them talked. They just all got in the car and it was dead silent", right? Sixteen and seventeen year-old boys just completely silent in the car. I thought that was



interesting because only about four or five days prior they had been in a tournament that they won. It was a great final game on a last second shot (basically) they won the tournament and many of them got in the car and after the game they were like, buzzing, right? Listen, those of you who are sports fans, wouldn't you like to know how to deal with the Seahawks? Like, how do you deal with the winning-- and the Canucks, how do you deal with the winning and the losing? Wouldn't you like to have the same steadiness? Would you watch your kids compete in these sports or they themselves do? To be able to face those circumstances - plenty and want - with the same kind of outlook.

Imagine you go to your mailbox later on this week and you're standing there in front of your mailbox, you open it up and pull out a letter and it's from the Canadian Government, which is (in your mind) never good news. In this case you open it up and pull it out and it says, "We regret to inform you that you're accountant is a fool and you owe us \$200,000." and you're like, "What?" and you start to shake and quiver and your mind starts racing. "How on earth are we going to pay \$200,000 to the Canadian Government? <scornfully> Trudeau!" [laughter]. Okay, so take that and compare it with the other option. You go to the mailbox and there you stand in front of the mailbox and you open it up and it's from the Canadian Government. You open it up and it says, "We regret to inform you that we have made a mistake over the last fifteen years of your working life and we've charged you too much." This is never going to happen [laughter]. "We've charged you too much, so here's a check for \$200,000." <excitedly>"Trudeau!" right? Wouldn't it be great to be able to face that situation, regardless of whether or not you got the money or you lost the money in your business or whatever, wouldn't it be great to be able to know the secret of being able to face those different circumstances, those two imposters, the same? If there's a secret, I want to know it.

Paul says he has it. That's what he said there, right? "I've learned the secret of contentment, that no matter what the circumstance, I know how to face it." Here's the difference though, between his view and the Stoics'. The Stoics, they said, "We know the secret, that within yourself lies all that you need to face all these circumstances." Paul's like, "That's a bunch of rubbish. I don't believe in self-sufficiency, I believe in Christ-sufficiency. Philippians 4:13,

"I can do all things through him who gives me strength."

The point is: "I have Jesus, so I have enough. No circumstance will change the fact that I have him. Winning, losing, sickness, health, wealth, poverty - they are all just fleeting circumstances in which the steady power of Jesus will be displayed in my life. That's what I've learned, that no matter what happens, Jesus is there. So the circumstances, they can come and go, they can fleet, but I can have joy."

Steph Curry, he had a rough go if you know the recent sports history. Two years ago, his team, the Golden State Warriors, they won the NBA championship. Great joy. I mean, he was heralded as being perhaps one of the best players in the history of the NBA. Last year, his team went up. You know there are seven game series in the NBA finals and his team went up three games to one against LeBron James' Cleveland Cavaliers. Three games to one. They had two games at home to win the Championship and they lost. Even the last one was in last second circumstances and they lost the



next three games. I just want you to picture, here's this guy who has Philippians 4:13 written on his body all over the place, thinking that this is going to promise success, that Jesus will be with me and give me the energy I need to hit that jump or do whatever, and he didn't hit the jumpers. So he walks into the locker room and he pulls off his jersey and the silence, I'm sure, that accompanied that sad locker room, and he pulls his shoes off and on those shoes says, "4:13 - I can do all things" and if he read this passage in context, is there a better word for this man at this moment? "Steph, brother, two years ago you experienced the plenty and now you've got the want, but guess what? Jesus was the same regardless. Today, you sit in your locker room and you still have him and he's the real treasure anyway. So yes, it's sad that you lost. Yes, you'll wake up tomorrow morning knowing that you'll have an eternal Heaven with him in the glory of his Father. There's some joy." You stand at the mailbox and you open those letters, I don't care what it says, \$200,000 in debt or \$200,000 in debit, you had Jesus before you got there, Christian, and you have him after regardless of what it says on the paper. You've got enough because you've got him. Is there anything better than him?

Think about Paul in this letter. If you read through the book of Philippians, one of the things that you'll notice about it repeatedly, is that he just talks about joy all the time. "I rejoice in the Lord, you guys should rejoice in the Lord. Hey, I rejoiced in the Lord greatly. Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice." Those are not the kind of words that people say when they are chained to Roman guards. "Why are you saying this?" "Because it doesn't matter if I'm chained to a Roman guard or I'm out there preaching the gospel or whatever. It doesn't matter because I've got Jesus. He's here with me, he will be there with me, I've got Jesus and he's enough." There is a secret of contentment and his name is Jesus.

[The Secret of Contentment is Learned]

The secret of contentment is learned. I want to read this passage just again. I walked through it to begin with, let me just read Philippians 4:10-13 all in one go:

"I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

What I want you to notice there, just as you go through, is that Paul did not learn this secret of contentment by divine download. It wasn't just on a Tuesday morning he said, "God, I just need that secret," and God said, "Oh, cool. Plug in." Paul's like "Ohh it's there!". Matrix. It took a period of time. The way Paul learned that he could do all things through him who gives him strength is to see Jesus give him strength in all things. He had to walk through plenty and want and he noticed. This is Paul, late in his life, saying, "Let me give you a testimony. Jesus is always enough. So thanks for the gift, but Jesus is always enough."



I know I'm not supposed to talk about personal finance in churches, especially not mine, but I don't care [laughter], so I will. I grew up in a well-off family. My wife, when she met me, said that I had been silver-spooned. That's probably true. I lived in a house, when I was young, that had six thousand square feet and a sauna in it. Who puts a sauna in a house? The people who lived there before us apparently liked to be hot. I used to hide in there to avoid my sister at hide-and-go-seek and hope to God that she did not turn it on [laughter]. Hot Tub, sauna, acreage just on the outskirts of Seattle, on the eastside of Seattle, which in itself is a very high-end area. We were well off. I had friends who had more money. There's no question about that, but not that much more. When I turned sixteen I had a car - one that operated. My sister had a car. My sisters grew up with horses, sometimes two of them at a time. I grew up playing tennis. Now here's an image: Jeff in all white with the little shorts, [laughter] right? Yeah. I played at Central Park Tennis Club, so that in itself tells you something about the socioeconomics of my life growing up. There were not needs. I don't remember ever thinking to myself, "I have massive wants." Everything I needed was provided for me. If I needed clothes, they were there, if I wanted to play another sport, it was there. It was just all the time. I was silver-spooned.

My first foray into not having much actually happened when I became a youth pastor just out of college. I remember the interview for that Youth Pastor position. I was interviewing for about two hours. It was my father-in-law's church and they had all sorts of weird questions. They got to the end and they said, "Well, just before we conclude, we want to just tell you the salary. It's going to be \$20,000 US a year," and I said, "Uh-huh," and they said a whole bunch of other stuff, but I didn't hear any of that because I thought, "\$20,000 US a year..." So I walked outside and went to our car, my wife got in the other side, I sat down and I paused for a minute. I looked over at her and I said, "We're rich," which was a lie. \$20,000 US does not make you rich, even back in the mid 90's. It did not make us rich, in fact, I found there it was difficult to live. It was the first time in my life I had ever faced that sort of thing. Well, the Lord, in his providence, started to lead us further down a path away from the money.

I ended up taking a position after a few years in seminary, I took a position in New Zealand as a teaching pastor. We accepted the position, sold all our stuff and moved there. We met with a friend and that friend, she sat across the table from us over coffee-- we had stopped over in Auckland, which is a main city in New Zealand, and then we were going to take a connecting flight two or three days later down to Nelson, where we were going to live. This was our friend, we wanted to visit them and see them for a little bit. She said to me, quietly, "If you don't mind me asking, what does a pastor in New Zealand make? What is the salary? I know that's an awkward question, but we're friends and we've been friends for years and I was just wondering." So I said, "Okay, I'm getting paid \$35,000 NZ a year, which, just so you know, at that time was about \$15,000 US and had the buying power, because of the cost of living, of about \$9,000 or \$10,000 US dollars. I had a baby and a wife, who was not able to work because of the visas and all the sort of stuff, and this woman who sat across from us, dear Sonja, she looked me in the eye and said, "You guys are going to starve. Nobody takes a job for that here." "They don't?" She said, "Did you do research?" "Nooooo." And she was right. We went down to New Zealand and we were on welfare in New Zealand.

The church was trying the best they could. They had already over extended by bringing us there and they wanted, desperately, to have us there and they were trying. We received vouchers for gas and



vouchers for food and the government gave us assistance and it was real hand-to-mouth stuff. “Can we drive to the next town with the gas that we have left for the month? I don’t think so, so we’re staying put.” It was a constant challenge, finances. When we decided to move back here I got a phone call from one of the guys on the search committee here at Northview when I came to be the Young Adults Pastor and he said, “Look, in the past we have left the financial conversation until much later and we have made the mistake that sometimes the people who come here realize that we can’t pay that much and so they can’t afford to move, so I want to talk to you first because I don’t know what your expectations are. This is the amount that we are going to give you.” He said it on the phone and I said, “Uh-huh,” and then I covered in the receiver, in the kitchen of my little house in New Zealand, and I looked at my wife and I said, “We’re rich” [laughter], which, we weren’t.

The Lord has always taken care of us here at Northview since. My point is, my story as a man is one of plenty and of want. Like, I know what he’s talking about here. If you’ve lived long enough, most people in this room (the grey hair) know what he’s talking about. That Jesus, no matter whether I’ve got a lot or a little, is always enough. I’ve seen him provide in the wealth and I’ve seen him provide in the poverty and I’ve seen him provide in the sickness and in the health and I’ve seen provide in the winning and the losing, that it doesn’t matter what the circumstance is, Jesus matters and I have him. I can face all of it and there is a secret to that.

Listen, I have a theory that I’ll share with you. You can decide whether or not I’m wrong about it. In the Western World, particularly in the suburban context, like the one we’re in, the goal of most of our lives, as we’re told by everyone around us, is for you to be financially secure to the degree that you don’t actually need anyone else. We are told, stoically, that you need to be self-sufficient with your finances and that the good life (the happy life) is found in that place where you have everything that you require. Now, we run after that and many of us, let’s be honest, we have achieved it at some level or another. When I come and when I say to you, “Jesus says that we should pray, ‘Give us this day our daily bread,’” you’re like “Uh-huh yeah, that’s in the Bible, but *daily* bread? Because honestly, I’m alright.” We chase after that, we have it, and as a result of that we don’t have practice in trusting God day to day. When it comes to finance, we just don’t have a lot of practice in depending on the Lord in that way. When we face other things that display our lack, like health concerns or relational breakdowns, where we don’t have the capital, we freak out because we don’t have any experience. We’ve never gone through the training of daily trusting the Lord financially so that that trust bleeds over into other areas of our lives, and so most of us, at some point or another, are freaking out about the circumstances around us. “How are we going to make it?” And yet I start wondering-- listen, if we decided together that we were going to put ourselves in situations, financially, through radical generosity, that we were going to have to say to the Lord, “Lord, I don’t know if I’ve extended too far because I’m giving so much, and if you don’t come through I am totally exposed.” If we put ourselves in that situation, we might actually see that bleed over into other areas of life that freak us out. That the natural trusting the Lord would be something that is like breathing for us.

Look, I have a big point and I will say it. I wrote it down so it would be clear, ready? You don’t need money to be happy. You don’t need wins to rejoice. In any and every circumstance you face as a Christian, Jesus will be your strength. You don’t have to have the resources within yourself. Rather,



you can welcome it all with the knowledge that this is just one more arena in which Jesus will prove himself to be enough. Or better said in Philippians 4:13,

“I can do all things through him who gives me strength.”

You should put that on a shoe [laughter]. Let me pray.

Father, I am so thankful for your Word and I'm thankful, Father, for your kindness to us and your promise to us that you indeed, Father, given whatever circumstance we face, you are a mighty shelter and that you provide the strength necessary for us to face it and to flourish there. There are a lot of people who are listening to me who are in many different circumstances right now, many of which are freaking them out. Father, this applies to those circumstances as well, that you are ours forever and the future is exceedingly bright with you. So encourage us today, Father. Help us to rejoice in the Lord always. Again, we say rejoice. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.