

## Phil 4:12-13

***I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.***

Ok, how many of you are familiar with verses 13 which says, ***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me?*** Raise your hands.

I count one, two, three, ten, twenty, a hundred ... Ok pretty much everyone.

So then, how many of you are familiar with verse 12, which says, ***I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need?*** Raise your hands.

Maybe half of you have your hand raised. Now, here is what I like to call a no Steve-er question (Simpler then a no brainer). How many of you know that verse 12 comes right before verse 13? (See I told you it was a no Steve-er.)

So why did I go through all of that? Well, we read verses and sometimes use them out of context, or not in the complete context that they were written in.

We are so familiar with verse 13 and we quote it whenever we are going through tough times and we rip verse 12 apart to back it up when we say that ***I know how to be abased ... and to be hungry ... and to suffer need.*** Meaning that people use it in those times when it seems all their relationships with family, friends, boy or girlfriend, has gone to pot, and at work they can't seem to do anything right and they feel that they are stuck in the same position at work forever. They feel that God has forgotten them and they are just plain weary from the daily battles of life along with all the spiritual battles. Haven't we all had those tough times, or maybe you are right now?

But what about when things are going good? Like the things people don't think about in verse 12 when they are quoting verse 13, like ***I know how to abound ... I have ... learned both to be full.***

Why aren't you quoting verse 13 (***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me***) when things are going great for you? You know, those times when all your relationships with family, friends, boy or girlfriend are great. Even at work you may have just gotten a raise or maybe you even got a better job. You feel that you are in God's will and enjoying this time of rest from the daily battles of life and spiritual battles. We have all had these great times in our lives as well, and you may be going through it right now.

Two different extremes that we all go through many times during this life. But just like the tough times in life, we also need to pray during the good times we go through as well. Because it says ***in all things***, meaning good and bad times ***Everywhere and in all things, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.***

So, why do we need to pray for strength through those good times? Unfortunately, during those good times, people seem to spend less time with the Lord, therefore when things are going good, they leave themselves wide open for temptation to creep in and they can start to fall away.

Jesus said, ***“But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.”*** Luke 8:13

Peter also said, *the more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.*

**2 Peter 1:8-10 (NLT)**

It's ok to enjoy the good times in your life. But also remember to pray through them just as you would through the tough times, or they can start to become bad times. And they will when you become too comfortable with the good times, as you slowly start to take your eyes off of Jesus. It's usually a form of pride thinking that you got it all now, and you don't need Jesus around all the time anymore, because things are going so well.

Meditate on this devotional, then you too will be able to say that ***I have learned the secret of living in every situation.***

**Phil 4:12-13 (NLT)** *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. For I can do everything (abound and to suffer need) with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.*

(added for emphasis)