

## Philippians 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.***

If God is your everything, then you can do anything. Yet just because we can do anything through Christ Jesus, does not mean that we should do anything we want. Paul said: ***All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 1 Corinthians 6:12***

So if I can do all thing, then you may think of an example of “*I can go out and drink*”. Yes you can, but if you do, then are you going to “*be brought under the power of*” it? Will it have control of you?

Paul also went on to say several chapters later the same thing, but now in regards of how you use your freedom to do anything, and how that freedom can affect others.

† **1 Corinthians 10:23-24** *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.*

Yes you can do all things, but you also need to ask three questions:

- ✓ Is it helpful
- ✓ Do they edify (Instruct or enlighten) yourself and others?
- ✓ Am I seeking my own wants, or the well-being other's?

Sure, you can go out and drink, because alcohol may not be an issue with you, but what about others?

† **1 Corinthians 10:28** *But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness."*

You can change food and eat to alcohol and drink. Once again, it may be fine for you, but it could cause someone else, who has a drinking problem to stumble. And if your attitude is, “*Well that's his or her problem, I'm ok with it, so I am going to do it anyway.*” Where is the love and caring for others in that?

Paul goes on to say that:

† **1 Corinthians 8:9-13** *But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge*

*eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.*

Once again, change the words food and eat to alcohol and drink.

But going back to my original statement of “*If God is your everything, then you can do anything.*” Didn’t Jesus say, ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*** John 14:12-14

Which is exciting, but also remember that the works that Jesus did were good works for others, never for Himself, or to even to point to Himself, but rather so that, ***“the Father may be glorified in the Son”*** or you could change ***“the Son”*** to your name. Mine would read ***“that the Father may be glorified in Steve”***

All I do and want to do is for His (The Father’s) glory, not mine, even though I write these devotionals and have music on all streaming platforms. I do not do it so that people can say how great Steve is. No, but rather how great the God of Steve is, because He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Steve (me) and hopefully you can put your name there as well. And if that is the case, yes you can do all things, but do them for the glory of God and Jesus, our Savior, not for yourself.

- † **Psalm 115:1** *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.*
- † **1 Corinthians 10:31** *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
- † **1 Peter 4:10-11 (MSG)** *Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he'll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!*