

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 – Part 3

2/21/24

- Tonight – Opportunity to give a Bible study – (will continue with a series)
- Title – Philippians 4:13 – Part 3

Phil. 4:13 Paul said – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”

- Why would a pastor make a series around those words?
 1. I believe that a merciful Heavenly Father readily answers prayers
 2. But I do not believe in the “name-it, claim-it” approach – where people can push God to do what they want Him to do and cause Him to submit to them
 3. Our loving Father gives us so much – every need and many of our wants
 4. One of the greatest gifts a dad gives to his children is a can-do, positive attitude – and the perfect Heavenly Father does the same – He helps us to succeed through adversity
- In a recent study – I invited you to consider the following 3 concepts
 1. I believe that God (as a perfect Father) will supply our personal needs – because He is trustworthy and because He loves us
 2. I believe that God will often give us the desires of our heart – because He loves us
 3. I believe that God sometimes says “no” to our requests (often the desires of our heart) – because He loves us
- In last week’s study – I discussed the first two of those concepts
- Tonight – I will discuss the third concept

3. I believe that God sometimes says “no” to our requests (often desires of our heart) – because He loves us

- 3 Reasons that God sometimes says “no”
 1. God is not controlled by the prayers of people

Jer. 7:16 don’t pray for this people – I will not hear them
 Jer. 11:14 don’t pray for this people – I will not hear them
 Jer. 14:11-12 don’t pray of this people (for their good) – I will not hear them
 Exod. 4:21 I will harden his heart

Exod. 7:3	I will harden his heart
Exod. 10:1	I have hardened his heart
20	the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart
27	the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart
Exod. 11:10	the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart
Exod. 14:4	I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them
8	the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh
17	I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians and they shall follow them
Rom. 9:18	therefore, He has mercy on whom He wills – and whom He wills, He hardens
Rev. 6:11	were killed – a prophecy to be completed

2. Some people ask for foolish things

James 4:2	you have not – because you ask not
3	you ask and receive not – because you ask amiss

3. Some people need to learn lessons

Deut. 3:23-27	God told Moses “no”
2 Sam. 12:15-23	God told David “no” – (even though David Was fasting when he made his request)
2 Cor. 12:7	thorn in the flesh
8	Paul asked 3 times – that it might go away
9	God told Paul “no” to the specific request – yet God answered in a different manner – Paul accepted God's response

- When a loving Father says “no” –
 - He wants us to grow and to learn
 - He will teach us how to endure
 - He will teach us how to succeed