

“Philippians 4:13—Part 2”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 17, 2024.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a series about Philippians 4:13. This was part 2.

Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Reasons for choosing

Why would a pastor give a Bible-study series about the words found in Philippians 4:13?

Here are four of my thoughts.

- I believe that a merciful Heavenly Father readily answers prayers.
- 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.
- Our loving Father gives us so much—every need and many of our wants.
- 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 in times of adversity.

Last week’s conclusion

At the conclusion of last week’s Bible study, I invited the audience to consider the following three 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.

This week’s study covered the first two concepts (and the third concept will be the topic of the next Bible study).

Supplies our needs

The foundation of our relationship with our Heavenly Father is that He supplies our personal needs.

- 1 Corinthians 10:13—God is faithful and will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to handle—making a way of escape for you to be able to bear the trouble.
- Matthew 6:8—Our Heavenly Father knows what we need before we ask Him.
- Matthew 6:25-33—He reminds His children that we should not worry about life (specifically mentioning food, drink and clothing).
- Matthew 11:28-30—Our Heavenly Father has commissioned the Son of God to help us—by helping us with our burdens and by giving us rest.
- Luke 11:1-8—The Son of God gave instruction about how to talk with our Father.
- Luke 11:9-10—The Father hears our prayers and supplies our needs.
- Luke 11:11-12—If a son asks for bread, will any father among you give a stone? If a son asks for a fish, will the father give him a serpent? If a son asks for an egg, will the father offer him a scorpion?
- Hebrews 4:16—Children of God should go boldly before the throne of the Father to receive His help in time of need.
- Hebrews 12:5-11—Just as children receive correction from imperfect physical fathers, children of God should certainly receive correction from our Heavenly Father.
- Hebrews 13:5—Our Heavenly Father will never leave us.

Desires of our heart

Our Heavenly Father will often give us the desires of our heart.

- 1 Peter 5:7—We should cast all our cares (needs and desires) to the ears of our Heavenly Father.
- Psalm 21:2—David marveled about how the Eternal gives us many of our heart's desire and many of the requests of our lips.
- Psalm 145:15-16—David marveled about how the Eternal provides both our needs (food in due season) and some of our desires.
- Luke 18:1-8—In a parable teaching people how to pray, the widow pestered the unjust judge about receiving justice (which is an understandable desire).

Next study

Our loving Father sometimes says “no” to our requests—because He loves us. If you are interested in doing some preparation before the next Bible study, I will list three biblical examples that you can read.

- Deuteronomy 3:23-27
- 2 Samuel 12:15-23
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9