

# Confidence That Empowers

## Philippians 4:10-13

### **Philippians 4:10-13 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup>“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before*, but you lacked opportunity.

<sup>11</sup>Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

<sup>12</sup>I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

<sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Our world emphatically proclaims the importance of self-esteem, which is a favorable impression of oneself. Surely, we are told, an individual who values himself highly will accomplish much. Yet Scripture tells us that true confidence flows, not from self, but from our identity in Christ.

In God’s Word, we learn that Paul experienced this appropriate assurance. He expressed certainty regarding the message and ministry God gave him ([Romans 1:16](#); [Galatians 1:15-17](#)). The apostle was also sure of eternal security in Jesus ([Romans 8:37-39](#)).

### **Romans 1:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

### **Galatians 1:15-17 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>“But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased

<sup>16</sup>to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

<sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.”

### **Romans 8:37-39 (NASB)**

<sup>37</sup>“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

<sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Today’s passage also shows that Paul stood firmly on his belief that He could do anything in God’s will because Jesus was living through him.

The Holy Spirit is the basis for our confidence—not positive thinking, right circumstances, or the ability to think highly of ourselves. Even in the midst of difficulty, we can live with boldness because the Spirit of the living God lives in us and enables us to follow Him.

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Of course, we have a role too. The Spirit directs us and strengthens us, but we are responsible to listen, obey, and diligently follow His guidance each day. We can have assurance in an unstable world because almighty God provides everything we need to live triumphantly.

Are you facing situations that make you feel inadequate or insecure? Search the Bible for descriptions of the Lord's character. Realize that our sovereign, almighty God—the Beginning and the End—lives inside of you through His Holy Spirit. Find your confidence in your Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.