

**Is Nothing Impossible For Me? (Philippians 4:10-14)**  
**When God is Misunderstood sermon series**  
**by Pastor David Hillis, 7.9.17**

**BIG IDEA:** Christ doesn't give us the strength to do whatever we want. Christ gives us the strength to withstand and even thrive, no matter what challenge or hardship comes our way.

- In Philippians 4:10-14, God is speaking through Paul, whom He used to tell non-Jewish people about Christ all over Europe. Philippians was written to a church Paul had started in Philippi, a city in Greece, during a time when he was in prison for telling people about Christ.
- Instead of feeling defeated by his terrible circumstances, Paul used this opportunity to teach his young church that they could endure any and every circumstance – the ups and downs, the highs and lows – because they had a strength that only comes from Christ.
- Paul's famous verse isn't saying we will be victorious in every challenge we face in life, but it is a verse about contentment and thriving – being joyful, satisfied and steadfast, even when life is hard and circumstances seem impossible.
- Contrary to popular belief, the Bible does not teach, "God will give you the strength to do whatever you set your mind to." Instead, the Bible teaches that God is a sustainer when life feels unsustainable.

**MY NEXT STEP:** Consider your places of deepest struggle. With what you have learned today, how does God want you to respond? How is the next step God has for you going to be different? Going to take God's strength?

## QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Read Philippians this week, and get a full picture of what Paul was going through and the Philippian believers were going through when Paul wrote this letter. Notice how it builds up to these incredible words of exhortation and encouragement in chapters 3 and 4. How can you identify with Paul and the Philippians today?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 11:16-12:10. Notice how, earlier in Paul's life, he struggled with the very type of thing that he was able to help the Philippians overcome as an older man, near the end of his life. What was the message that God gave him near the end of this selection that changed everything for him? What did God's words to him mean? Why do you think that meant so much to him? How do those same words affect you?
3. Take the time this week to also read the short book of Habakkuk. Notice the challenges he too faced, and how God worked through his life as reflected in his prayer in chapter 3. What similarities can you see to Philippians? What does it say to you about not giving up, and how to not give up?
4. Next week we will be continuing this series by looking at another commonly misunderstood verse, Romans 8:28. We will answer the question, "Does Everything Turn Out Good?" How would you answer that question?

## PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Unemployed

*Pray for those in our community who are unemployed and that God will meet their needs in ways that they can clearly thank Him for His provision. Pray that they will soon find meaningful employment and glorify God in it.*