

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## I Can Do All Things

(Jerry Fite)

One of the blessings of walking with the Lord is having the strength to face and overcome troublesome circumstances in life. The Lord does not always take away the obstacles of life, but He always provides us the way to be victorious over them. We face our foe; we battle; and we overcome. Through the help and strength of the Lord, we are victorious.

Paul writes, “*I can do all things in Him that strengthening me*” (Philippians 4:13). Paul was not glorying in personal self-sufficiency, but he was emphasizing that his self-sufficiency was through the strength the Lord provided him, therefore giving glory to the Lord. Paul could continue through the times of want, for the Lord was with him to strengthen him until his needs were met. Regardless of the circumstances of want or abundance, Paul learned how to be content in what ever state he was in.

Like Paul, the Christian today can face the anxiety of want, and be sufficient to face it courageously, knowing that God will provide for his or her needs (Matthew 6:33). The Christian knows God will not forsake him or her in

times of personal want (Hebrews 13:5). Strengthened inwardly with knowledge of the Lord’s promises, the Christian can continue through the dark days of despondency.

The Christian can also build himself or herself up in their own faith. Jude writes, “*But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep up yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life*” (Jude 20-21). The Christian cannot be built up on his or her own wisdom, or on subjective feelings. He or she is not self-sufficient as to what builds him or her up.

The source for building the Christian up is found in the word revealed by God. Paul emphasizes this when he says, “*I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified*” (Acts 20:32). We can build, pray and look. We can do these things. But what makes us strong is that we build upon the promises revealed in God’s Word, pray in accordance with the teaching of the Holy Spirit and look

for the Lord to come again, as He promises in His Word (John 14:3).

We can also face death without fear. Jesus died and arose from the dead to take away the uncertainty of what exists beyond the grave, thus creating fear. “*...He also Himself in like manner partook of the same; that through death He might bring to naught him that had the power of death, that is the devil; and might deliver all them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*” (Hebrews 2:14-15). The Christian is released from the bondage of fear, not through merely determining to be brave, but what Jesus has done for us in overcoming death. Through His resurrection, we face death with a living hope, confident of our home in heaven after death (I Peter 1:3-5).

The Christian stands and faces whatever comes in life with confidence. He can do all things, build himself up and be hopeful in life and death. What appears as self-sufficiency, is really strength derived through the trust and help of the Lord who gives us strength to overcome. Through Him, we can do all things!