

☞ **The Possibilities are Endless**

Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

☞ **I can** = not somebody else; not Billy Graham; not Reinhard Bonnke; not Pastor; not Board members. Not "The church can do such and such" or "Somebody ought to & so-and-so could do it." But, "I can do such and such" or perhaps "I really ought to and God will enable me."

Can = not cannot; not might; not should... ability

Mark 9:22-23 (father of a demon-possessed boy)

"if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." **23** "If you can!?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

☞ **Believers eventually become achievers.**

--Arnold Palmer... *The most rewarding things you do in life are often the ones that look like they cannot be done.*

Even failing at something, doesn't mean it can't be done... A young man failed in business in '31, he was defeated for the legislature in '32, he was elected to the legislature in '34. His sweetheart died in '35, he had a nervous breakdown in '36, he was defeated for speaker in '38, he was defeated for elector in '40, he was defeated for Congress in '43, he was elected to Congress in '46, defeated for Congress in '48, defeated for Senate in '50, defeated for vice president in '56 and for Senate in '58. But fortunately he was elected president in 1860. His name was Abraham Lincoln. He proves that failure need not be permanent.

"can" is optimistic...

--Zig Ziglar... *I'm such an optimist I'd go after Moby Dick in a rowboat and take the tartar sauce with me.*

King Saul thought Goliath was too big to fight; David thought he was too big to miss.

"I can"... As followers of Christ, this should be our attitude: We look backward with gratitude and forward with confidence.

If you struggle with this idea of "I can," then remember James 5:16..." The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." And, Luke 1:37 which says, "nothing is impossible with God."

☞ **"If God is in it, we can!"**

☞ **Do** = more than just think or imagine... accomplish something

What's your dream for God? If there were no restrictions whatsoever, what would you do for God? Better yet, what is God's vision for you? If you allowed God to accomplish his perfect will in you, what would that look like?

Ephesians 3:20 (God can do what seems impossible)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us

John 14:12 (God expects us to do something, too)

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

If you're struggling with a big vision or if this idea of "even greater things" seems overwhelming to you, then start with what you have...

☞ God to Moses – **"what's in your hand?"** Remember, Moses tried to convince God he couldn't based on what he didn't have. But God wasn't interested in what Moses didn't have, only in what he did have. God took a shy young man who did not like the limelight, but had a little musical talent and a lot of determination, and made into him the man standing before you today.

1 Peter 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

You may be one who isn't sure what God would have you do. Then, start with what you already have. Don't get paralyzed at the thought of doing something that seems

☞ impossible. **Start where you are.** What can you do right now with what you have?

--Theodore Roosevelt... *Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.*

It was DL Moody who said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do."

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

In other words, don't wait until you can do something fantastic. Start where you are with what you have and just do something. Solomon says we're all destined for the grave – you've only got one shot at life and it's over so quickly. Do something!

☞ **Everything** = all things (KJV); any; every; the whole; anything whatsoever

How much? Some? A little tiny bit? ...All! Anything! Everything!

Sound extreme? Listen to these...

Matthew 17:20

I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

☞ **Mark 9:23**

"Everything is possible for him who believes."

Luke 1:37

For nothing is impossible with God."

--Robert F. Kennedy... *Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.*

--the builders of the cathedral in Seville, Spain, in 1401... *"Let us build here a church so great that those who come after us will think us mad ever to have dreamed of it!"*

For us, not just a building, but developing a church of people who are great disciples of Christ. I want to remind you of some of our vision. Imagine a church...

- Where people feel the presence of God like never before.
- With gifts of the Spirit in regular operation.
- Where people can come to get healed from all sorts of ailments.
- With new believers added routinely.
- Genuinely reaching the community with the gospel and with practical helps such as food, clothing and shelter.
- Raising up servants, leaders, missionaries and other ministers.
- That helps plant other churches in key locations.

These are things we can do. And if some of these things seem a bit out of reach right now, that's okay. One of our plumb lines is related to our slogan of Personal, Practical and Powerful. It says, "What we do must require God's power for any significant result."

☞ **Through him** = Not my ability; not my talent; not someone else's ability either.

Not simply "positive thinking" or some kind of "psych-out."

These seemingly impossible things we can do are done through him. That means we must ☞ be **connected to him and counting on him.**

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

2 Corinthians 12:9

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Grace = God's favor. If you are a believer, you already have God's favor.

Romans 8:31

If God is for us, who can be against us?

With God the impossible becomes possible. It's through him!

☞ **Gives me strength** = not loan; not sell; not take... gives freely (in the present tense – he keeps giving me strength)

Strength = dunamis – "dynamite;" force; miraculous power; ability

Not just a little; not barely enough; God's strength is explosively powerful. **More than ☞ enough!**

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power (dunamis) when the Holy Spirit comes on you

2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power (dunamis), of love and of a sound mind.

Philippians 4:13

I can do everything through him who gives me strength (dunamis).

Wilma Rudolph suffered from double pneumonia, scarlet fever and polio as a child. Polio left her with a crooked left leg. She wore metal braces and had to have treatments for over six years. At age 11, through sheer diligence and determination, she forced herself to walk without braces for the first time. Before long, Wilma followed in her older sister's footsteps and played basketball. In her sophomore year she set a record by scoring 803 points that season.

Wilma was noticed by Tennessee State's track and field coach and at 14 years old joined his summer training program. After attending the track camp, she won all nine events at an Amateur Athletic Union track meet in Philadelphia. At age sixteen and a

junior in high school, she attended the 1956 U.S. Olympic track and field team trials and qualified to compete in the 200-meter individual event at the Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia. She was defeated at a preliminary heat of the 200, but also ran the third leg of the 4 x 100 relay. Her team took the bronze that year.

Four years later, in 1960, in Rome, she was ready. She had paid the price. She won, and she won big. She won the 100 meter dash. She won the 200, and she anchored the United States relay team and ultimately won three gold medals, the first American woman to do so at a single Olympics. A lovely little, disabled girl reached for the gold.

In your ministry (or situation), are you going for the gold? The possibilities are endless!

☞ Philippians 4:13

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