

I want to be a Christian because I want to be strong!

Intro:

- **illus.:** mother with young children, husband died, wanted to be strong for her children but had a hard time keeping herself together before and after the funeral
 - ! wanted to be strong
 - ! did not know where to find the inner strength to do the hardest thing she ever had to do - continue life without her husband
- → **The secret is Jesus!**
 - ! **Phil. 4:12-13** secret, do all things
 - ! **the secret to triumphing in every situation --- "Jesus"**
- **This lesson:**
 - ! **Title:** I want to be a Christian because I want to be strong!
 - ! **Purpose / Convince:** to convince you to become a Christian (remain faithful as a Christian) so that you will have the spiritual strength you need to fight the battles of life

- **What does Paul mean in Phil. 4:13?**
 - "can do" (Greek, *ischuo*, vb.): **to be strong, to have power**
 - ! Christians have a "can do" attitude:
 - ! **illus.:** Senator John McCain's story of a fellow-poisoner (POW) during the Vietnam war
 - ! **saying:** where there is a will, there is a way — can do attitude, strong with power
 - ! Christians have a **will** to obey God, so they always **find a way**
 - ! This verb is **from the Greek noun *ischus*** (is-khoos'). - e.g., Ephesians
 - ! **Eph. 1:18-20** in accordance with the working of the strength of His **might** (Greek, *ischo*) which He brought about in Christ
 - ! **Eph. 6:10** in the strength of His **might** (Greek, *ischo*).
 - ! **Application:** strength to do all things comes from God — the strength of His might
- → "all things" (Greek, *pas*, adj.): **adj. - we can do all**
 - ! nothing excluded
 - ! **illus.:** Paul:
 - ! **2 Cor. 11:23b-27** labors, imprisonments, beaten, danger of death, scourged five times, beaten with rods, stoned, etc.
- → "through" (Greek, *en*, prep.): **preposition** denoting (fixed) **position** (in place, time or state), **and** (by implication) **instrumentality: the instrument by which we "can do" all things is Christ**
 - ! **illus.:** you go to town in the car
 - ! the instrument you used to get to town was the car
 - ! without the car we would not have gotten to town
 - ! **application:**
 - ! we are spiritually strong through Christ
 - ! without Christ, we are spiritually weak
 - ! **Application:** Without Jesus we can do nothing! With Jesus we can do all things!

- → "strengthens" (Greek, *endunamoo*, vb.): to receive strength, be strengthened, increase in strength
 - ! "Causative verb to empower, to pour power into one" (A. T. Robertson).
 - ! verb - action that is done by Christ - He pours power into us
 - ! The same Greek phrase in the aorist tense appears in **1 Tim. 1:12**:
 - ! **1 Tim. 1:12a** our Lord, who has strengthened me, . . .
 - ! Paul's strength was from the Lord — he would remain strong as long as the Lord continued to strengthen him
 - ! **Application:** the Lord strengthens us to accomplish "to do all things" which we must do in His service
- → **Context: Our aim as Christians is to know Christ and His power** — to attain to the resurrection of the dead
 - ! **Phil. 3:8-11** surpassing value of knowing Jesus, through faith in Christ, know Him and the power of His resurrection, attain to the resurrection from the dead
 - ! **Phil. 4:13** do all things through Jesus, who strengthens me
 - ! **Application:** Spiritual strength to win life's battles comes from being a Christian — know Christ and His power! — **do all things through Christ**
- **Conclusion:**
 - **Summary:** You can do all things through Jesus Christ
 - ! access to God, prayer, strength, spiritual needs met, physical need met, emotional needs met, eternal life in heaven
 - ! **Phil. 4:13**
 - **Inv.:**
 - ! **I want to be a Christian, because I want to be strong.**
 - ! **What has Jesus commanded you to do to become a Christian — become strong?**

Audio sermon notes:

- ! ➤ denotes the place to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- ! All Scriptures are NASB unless otherwise noted.
- ! Sermons recorded 10-23-05, Church of Christ, South Livingston congregation in Lutz, FL.