

*"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*  
*Philippians 4:12-13 KJV*



Circumstances have a way of diminishing our faith through the perception of our flesh which is *"carnal, sold under sin and cannot discern spiritual things."* We are like Peter when he was bid to walk on water, after doing the impossible, was still dismayed by the stormy sea that surrounded him! When Christ bids us *"Come! Go! Do!"* His Word empowers us.

*"For it is God (through His Word) which worketh in you, both TO WILL AND TO DO of His good pleasure!"* God enables what He commands if we but step out on faith and believe Him. It matters not the peril we perceive for our *"life is hid in Christ with God."* Through the Word of God I am able to obey in spite of the boisterousness of the circumstances that may surround me. Many times the waves of financial distress threaten to overwhelm or winds of ill health threaten to beat us down. God's Word reminds us that He will *never leave us nor forsake us.* It reminds us that *"all things (even the bad) work together FOR GOOD to them that love God."* Our ill health might be the vehicle God uses to bring a loved one into the fold, an example of strength to a weaker saint, or to bring us closer to Him. We are reminded that *"the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us."* I overcome circumstances by letting the *"mind of Christ...dwell in [me] richly."* That is, God's Word embedded in my thoughts so deeply I cannot think a thought without God's Word coming into the muse. It is the Christ mindset of obedience *"unto death, even the death of the cross."* Like Christ, we need to endure the sufferings of the present *"for the joy that is set before [us]."* The joy of being eternally united with our beloved Lord and should we die, so much the sooner! *"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."* We must trust the life-line of faithful obedience and keep our gaze steadfastly upon the Word if we are to keep ourselves from sinking beneath the waves of circumstance. If we should begin to sink, a solitary cry for help, *"Lord, save me!"* will bring immediate attention from the hand of the almighty Jehovah who even the winds and waves obey if we remand our thoughts back to God's Word. Our power to overcome is directly proportional to our obedience to the Word of God. Need more power? Obey more fully. A bee sting to an infant can be deadly, but for an adult it is a momentary discomfort. Our load lightens with faithful exercise.

Nothing's impossible with my Lord,  
I need, but trust His Holy Word,  
No storm nor wave can overwhelm  
When Jesus whispers *"Peace, Be still."* ~CGP

Remember who it was that bid you *"Come!"* when you feel like you are drowning in circumstances. It's not how often you fall that matters; it's that you get back up this time! Re-fix your gaze of hope on the sure promises of the omnipotent Savior, and remember the Joy of Heaven that is set before you! *"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things (eternal life in Heaven with God) which are before...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

*"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:3 KJV*