
TURN YOUR CAN'T INTO CAN

I. Do You Think of Yourself as a “Can” or a “Can’t?”

- a. Can anyone do the things God has called them to do?
 - i. The answer to this question affects every aspect of your life.
 - ii. Can any Christian really do the things God wants them to do, or is it only for the “super Christians?”
- b. We are all called to be like Jesus, which means we can all be the people God has called us to be.
- c. By trusting Jesus, you can turn your can’t into can.

II. Paul’s Prayer

- a. Before laying out the expectations for the Christian’s life to the Ephesian Christians, Paul prayed for them.
- b. **Ephesians 3:14-17** (NRSVue): *“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”*
 - i. This prayer isn’t about what “super-spiritual” people can do, but about what God can do.
 - ii. It lays the foundation for how we can live the Christian life.
- c. The Holy Spirit enables Jesus to dwell in us.
 - i. In Greek, the word for “dwell” carried the idea of a permanent residence.
 - ii. Jesus’ presence lives in us.
- d. This enables us to be rooted and grounded in Jesus’ love.
 - i. Jesus’ presence in our hearts changes us.
 - ii. Being rooted in Jesus’ love gives us the power to live like Jesus, even when we’re pressured from the outside.
 1. Think of a tree with deep root systems.
 2. The Ephesian Christians were going to face obstacles, but Paul wanted them grounded in Christ so they could keep going.
- e. **Ephesians 3:18-19** (NRSVue): *“I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

- i. The reference to height, depth, and length of Jesus' love is a way for Paul to express the vastness of and wonder of His love.
 - ii. Think of how it changes your perspective to see a great natural wonder.
- f. We need a fresh perspective of Jesus.
- g. **Isaiah 6:5,8** (NRSVue) *“And I said, ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”*
- h. The awareness of God's greatness moves us to action.
 - i. It's easier to love others when you recognize how much Jesus has forgiven you.
 - ii. It's hard to go out and do what Jesus said if you don't have a picture of who Jesus is.
 - iii. We best experience this new understanding of Jesus with other believers.
- i. **Psalms 72:19** (NIV): *“Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.”*
- j. We are filled with the fullness of God.
 - i. We fill the world with God's glory.
 - ii. We point the world to God's Kingdom and show them Jesus.
 - iii. We can live like Jesus because what is in us, God's fullness, naturally flows outward.
- k. **Ephesians 3:20-21** (NRSVue): *“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

III. You Can

- a. You can live the life God has called you to live because He is able to do more than we could ask or think.
 - i. Paul acknowledged by faith that God would answer his prayer.
 - ii. You may not believe that you can, but the Bible says that you can through Jesus.
- b. **Ephesians 2:10** (NRSVue): *“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.”*
 - i. God has a plan for you.
 - ii. God created you to do great things.
 - iii. You are a masterpiece designed to show the world the beauty of our creator.

- iv. We must use our faith to believe that God will keep His word and enable us to do His good works.
- c. **Ephesians 4:1** (NIV): *“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.”*
 - i. We can live the life because God empowers us to live it.
 - ii. Living the Christian life is a choice that we make in light of God’s empowering presence.
 - iii. Keep running the race and trust God to abundantly turn your feeling of “I can’t” into “I can.”