

# Know Who's for You!

## *Becoming a "Can Do" Person:*

Romans 8:31-39, 1 Samuel 17:32-37

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David eyed a 9-foot giant whose spear was as big as a weaver's rod. In shiny bronze armor, the giant Goliath looked like a god; but David was ready to fight him. King Saul thought it ridiculous: a small boy against a behemoth, and a seasoned warrior. David said to King Saul:

*Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.* (1 Samuel 17:34-37, NIV)

With everyone cowering in fear and negativity dominating, David was a "Can Do" kid. He wasn't an empty boast. Although his brothers resented his confidence and put him down, and even his father appeared to think he was too big for his britches – Jesse never thought his son David was leadership material (in fact, I wonder if Jesse thought all of David's music and sensitivity was a sign of weakness) – whatever the case, David was accomplished. He had defeated a lion and a bear. Those closest to him probably thought that David was given to exaggeration and pride, but David had the faith of a "Can Do" person. He believed a big God favored him in his challenges. He believed God is for him and acted accordingly.

In contrast, most of us struggle with negativity. We immerse ourselves in words and ideas that seem humble, but truly insult our creator and redeemer. Thinking and speaking the way we do, we give in, give up, and give out! However, that is not God's vision for us. David is

a revelation of God's vision. The life of David is not recorded for you to admire him. His flaws were awful. They brought pain, suffering and death to many. God had the story of David scripted so that you might understand your personal calling regardless of your flaws.

God raises his children to be "Can Do" people! His expectations are off your map. You don't want to be held accountable to them. We often say things to lower expectations. Guess what? God is going to hold us to high standards, regardless of what we say. He is in charge of growing us! Look what God has written about us:

***If God is for us, who can be against us?*** (Romans 8:31, NIV)

Literally Paul wrote: "If God for us, who against us?" The point is if God is for you, whoever or whatever is against you is irrelevant. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if he is a 9-foot giant or if it is an army, or a recession, or terrorists, or an illness, or age. If God is for you, why are you thinking and speaking negatively?

Paul continued:

***He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*** (Romans 8:32, NIV)

God gave up Jesus for you. Why do you think God's not for you? Jesus paid for your sins, so the true judge is not against you. The true judge is for you. Your troubles, hardships and even demons are no match for God. Why do you worry and fret? What do your worries and frets say about God? Problems can't separate you from God's love. God promises you:

***In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.***  
(Romans 8:37, NIV)

Often times, we say things that lead us to live as victims rather than conquerors. Our negative words rob us of our destiny. We speak what is in our heart, and our hearts can be darkened with hurt, disappointment and fear rather than filled with faith and love. Each time we

speaking we bind ourselves with hindering ropes. We tie our potential down. To illustrate, I've asked some individuals to shoot me with silly string every time I say something negative about myself or others. We bind ourselves and we hurt others with all kinds of statements.

"I'll never be as good as you at that!" "I'm mechanically inclined. I screw everything up!" "I don't have what it takes!" "I'm just a 'scaredy cat'!" "I'm a worrier!" "I'm too old!" "I'm too slow." "I have a bad memory!" "I am an idiot!" "You're an idiot!" "What do you expect? You're only human!" "You'll never change!" "You don't have what it takes!" "You stink!" "What do you expect? We're sinners!" "I just can't forgive." "I just can't do it!" "I just can't get over it!"

In contrast, the Apostle Paul wrote:

***"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*** (Philippians 4:13, NIV)

Is that true of you? Can you? Repeat that verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Do you believe it? Will you speak it and repeat it until it invades your thinking. "I can do all things" doesn't mean you can do everything the first time and do it without sacrifice or much effort. It does mean if God is for you, why are you thinking and speaking as if he isn't.

Do you remember when Astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped off the lunar landing craft saying, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind?" You can take one small step today that is a giant leap for your life and destiny. You can vow to cooperate with God this year to become a "Can Do" person. He's paid for your sins. He's called you a saint. He is the author of your faith and he will be the "perfecter" or completer of your faith if you'll cooperate. In the Bible, we are told:

***Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them.*** (Psalm 76:11)

This is a very powerful step. Instead, of just hearing God's word, you do something when you make a commitment. You put yourself on the spot to act in obedience. Will you vow to cooperate with God? In January and February, we will focus on things that will help you in this transformation to be a "Can Do" person, but there are two actions you can take right now.

*First, you can begin to put God's word into your heart.* If you haven't joined us in reading through the New Testament, do it this year. One chapter a day, five days a week, will get you through the New Testament in a year, and you'll be reading right along with the rest of the congregation. What you read will change you! If you can't read, get the Bible on cd, mp3 or cassette tapes. Listen to the word. It will shape how you think. If you have read with us through the New Testament in a year, will you now read through the Bible? Bill Bradbury has put together for us a Bible reading program that will take us through the Bible in a year. Will you let the Spirit wash your thinking with the entire Bible?

*Second, you can become a part of a Sunday School class, a ministry team or a small group that applies biblical principles to areas of your life.* Such a choice will shape your thinking and doing. How will your thinking and doing be nurtured by the spiritual gifts in the body of Christ this year? How will you cooperate with God to make you a "Can Do" person? Make your vow and begin to fulfill it!