

**Second Hand Preacher**  
*28<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time 10 12 14*  
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Philippians 4:13 states, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." I have been inspired by this verse since college. A young woman who was an athlete was the first to tell me about it and ever since then I made this verse my own through any difficulties I have encountered. I even used it on the Holy Card I designed for my ordination to Priesthood. This verse flashes back so many successes and failures that I have encountered over the last 25 years. Sometimes I have needed the verse to give me hope. It has helped me believe that I would be given strength to endure whatever life brings my way. Other times the verse has let me know that I wasn't the source of my strength that indeed God was the one who put strength in me. I believe it is true that when I looked to God I would be given strength.

St. Paul looked to God for strength. This strength has helped Paul to be a great evangelizer who helped many people in Gentile territory. Travel was tough in the day of Paul and he was in great need of strength. He was grateful to the Christians in Philippi, but he is wanting to point out he could do without their gesture because he relies on God. He shows this not because he doesn't appreciate them, but to show that they can rely on God for strength as well. He tells them that God will supply everything they need.

Who do we rely on? It is good to be connected to a family or community, but it is even more important to be connected to God. Humans may fail us, but God is eternal. God often uses great people to work through him so that faith can be restored. Paul loved the Philippians and is eternally grateful for them. He wants to teach them and eventually us, that we need to depend on the God who gave us his Son.