

A STRONG SPIRIT Hardened To Difficulties

- I. **The ability to be content no matter the circumstance is the definition of strength-Ph4:11**-*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.*
- A. The circumstances don't affect you-This means you're strong
- B. His strong spirit enabled him to be content-*Content*-Independent of external circumstances; W1828-A mind at peace, not disturbed in the present condition
- C. When you're going through hell, but you still have your faith, peace and joy this is being strong-**Co1:11**-*Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; **AC**- [We pray] that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy; **ISV**-You are being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might, so that you might patiently endure everything with joy; **TLB**-We are praying, too, that you will be filled with his mighty, glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens—always full of the joy of the Lord; **VO**-Strengthen them with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might, so that they will have everything they need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully.*
- II. **When you're strong you're hardened to difficulties and that means difficulties don't affects you-Is41:10-AC**-*Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you*
- A. None of these things move me-**Acts20:22**-*And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: ²³ Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*
- B. Paul had tapped into the strength of God to the place where he was hardened to difficulties-**2Co4:8**-*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*