

# Four Powerful Words:

- **Ought** (Responsibility)
- **Can** (Ability)
- **Will** (Determination)
- **Have** (Accomplishment)

Paul was one of the greatest to serve, who said,

- “Be ye **FOLLOWERS** of me, even as I also am **OF** Christ.” ([1Cor.11:1](#))

His greatness is seen in “*Four Powerful Words*”, which is the title of the lesson.

We should **MARK** our own Spiritual **PROGRESS**, by our **USE** of them:

## I. “I OUGHT”, demonstrates RESPONSIBILITY

Paul said,

- “**TAKE** the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:  
<sup>18</sup> **PRAYING** always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,  
and **WATCHING** thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;  
<sup>19</sup> and for me, that utterance may be given unto me,  
that I may open my mouth boldly, to **MAKE** known the mystery of the gospel,  
<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in bonds:  
that therein I may speak boldly, as **I OUGHT** to **SPEAK**.” ([Eph.6:19-20](#))
- “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved,  
what manner of persons **OUGHT** ye to be, in all holy conversation and godliness,” ([2Pet.3:11](#))

The Greek word “**OUGHT**” is beautiful, and strong:

More than just what we should do, but what we are **MORALLY INDEBTED** to do.

### A. Many statements show we have a burden of **DEBT** to:

**LEARN**, and **PRAY** fervently.

In [Lk.18:1](#),

- Jesus “spake a parable unto them to this end,  
that men **OUGHT** always to pray, and not to faint;”
- “Pray without ceasing.” ([1Thess.5:17](#))

We have a burden of **DEBT** to,

**Support the weak.**

The Bible says,

- “...ye **OUGHT** to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus,  
how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” ([Acts 20:35](#))
- “We then that are strong **OUGHT** to bear the infirmities of the weak,  
and not to please ourselves.” ([Rom.15:1](#))
- “and **LET** us **CONSIDER** one another to **PROVOKE** unto love and to good works:” ([Heb.10:24](#))

We have a burden of DEBT to,  
**Love our own, God approved mate.**

The Bible says,

- Men ought, “to **LOVE** their wives as their own bodies.  
He that **LOVETH** his wife loveth himself.  
<sup>29</sup> For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it,  
even as the Lord the church:” ([Eph.5:28-29](#))
- The aged women are to “teach the young women to be sober,  
to **LOVE** their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home,  
good, obedient (or being subject ) to their **OWN** husbands,  
that the **WORD** of God, be **NOT** blasphemed.” ([Titus 2:4-5](#))

We have a burden of DEBT to,  
**Love and obey God.**

The apostles said,

- “We **OUGHT** to **OBEY** God, rather than men.” ([Acts 5:29](#))
- Jesus “became the **AUTHOR** of Eternal **SALVATION**, unto **ALL** them, that **OBEY** Him;” ([Heb.5:9](#))
- “And this is **LOVE**, that we **WALK** after His commandments.  
This **IS** the commandment, That, **AS** ye have **HEARD** from the beginning, ye should **WALK** in it.” ([2Jn.vs.6](#))

We have a burden of DEBT to,  
**Know more.**

The Bible says,

- “**IF** any man **THINK** that he **KNOWETH** any thing,  
he knoweth **NOTHING** yet, as he **OUGHT** to **KNOW**.” ([1Cor.8:2](#))
- “Therefore we **OUGHT** to give the more earnest **HEED** to the things which we have **HEARD**,  
lest at any time we should **LET** them **SLIP**.” ([Heb.2:1](#))

We have a burden of DEBT to,  
**Influence others.**

- Phillip simply said “...Understandest thou, what thou redest?” ([Acts 8:30](#))
- Paul said to Timothy, “the things that thou hast **HEARD** of me among many witnesses,  
the same **COMMIT** thou, to **FAITHFUL** men, who **shall be ABLE** to **TEACH** others also.” ([2Tim.2:2](#))

But some need to be careful,

- “For **WHEN** for the time ye **OUGHT** to be **TEACHERS**,  
ye have **NEED** that one teach you **AGAIN**,  
which be the **FIRST** principles of the **ORACLES** of God;  
and are **BECOME** such as have **NEED** of milk, and **NOT** of strong meat.” ([Heb.5:12](#))

We have a burden of DEBT to,  
**Conform to Christ's teaching.**

- “He that saith he **ABIDETH** in Him, **OUGHT** himself **ALSO** so to **WALK**, even as He **WALKED**.” ([1Jn.2:6](#))
- Jesus said, “**IF** ye **LOVE** Me, **KEEP** My commandments.” ([Jn.14:15](#))

**Sometimes, We become INSENSITIVE to the burdens of DEBT we have.**

Words can be easy to say; but it's NOT SO EASY to say,

## II. **“I CAN”, demonstrating ABILITY**

Paul said,

- “**I CAN** do all things, **THROUGH** Christ, which **STRENGTHENETH** me.” ([Phil.4:13](#))

### A. God's giants, always say "With HIS help, I CAN!"

- Caleb said, “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are **WELL ABLE** to overcome it.” ([Num.13:30](#))
- “But the men that went up with him said,  
We be **NOT able** to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.” ([Num.13:31](#))

Only two faithful men are remembered of having the attitude of: "With God's Help, We CAN."  
Only Caleb and Joshua were allowed to enter the promised land ([Num.32:11-12](#))

We are called to action: To **KNOCK** the “**T**” out of “Can't”,  
And Realize without doubt, “**With God's Help, We CAN**”.

### B. We CAN, apply the context of "All Things"

Paul said,

- “My God **SHALL supply ALL your NEED** (that's in the **AFFIRMATIVE**),  
**ACCORDING** to His **RICHES** in glory, **BY** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:19](#))

### C. We CAN, overcome temptation

- “There hath **NO** temptation **TAKEN** you but such as is common to man:  
but **God is FAITHFUL**, Who will **NOT** suffer you to be tempted **ABOVE** that ye are **ABLE**;  
but **WILL** with the temptation, also **MAKE** a way to **ESCAPE**, that ye may be **ABLE** to bear it.” ([1Cor.10:13](#))
- “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities;  
but was in all points tempted, like as we are, yet without sin.  
<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may **OBTAIN** mercy,  
and **FIND** grace to **HELP** in time of NEED.” ([Heb.4:15-16](#))

## D. We CAN, Be more THANKFUL for the great bounty

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath **BLESSED** us, with **ALL** spiritual blessings, **IN** heavenly places, **IN** Christ:” ([Eph.1:3](#))
- “giving **THANKS** always, for **ALL** things, **UNTO** God and the Father **IN** the **Name** of our Lord Jesus Christ;” ([Eph.5:20](#))

## E. We CAN Work in the day of opportunity

- Jesus said, “I must **WORK** the works of Him that sent Me, **WHILE** it is **DAY**: the night cometh, when no man can work.” ([Jn.9:4](#))
- “But this I say, brethren, the **TIME** is **SHORT**:” ([1Cor.7:29a](#))

## F. We CAN, Stand for truth

- “**LET** your conversation (that is, your manner of living) **BE** as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye **STAND FAST**, in **ONE** spirit, with **ONE** mind, striving TOGETHER, for the **FAITH** of the gospel;” ([Phil.1:27](#))
- “We having the **SAME** spirit of **FAITH**, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also **BELIEVE**, and therefore **SPEAK**;” ([2Cor.4:13](#); [Psa.116:10a](#))

## G. We CAN, Pray every day for the saints and God’s kingdom

- “**PRAYING** always with **ALL** prayer and supplication **IN** the Spirit, and **WATCHING** thereunto with **ALL** perseverance and supplication for **ALL SAINTS**;” ([Eph.6:18](#))

## H. We CAN, Be saved eternally

1<sup>st</sup> Century Disciples,

- “...were exceedingly amazed, saying, **WHO** then **CAN** be **SAVED**?” ([Matt.19:25](#))

We therefore should,

- “**KEEP** (our)selves **IN** the **LOVE** of God, **LOOKING** for the **MERCY** of our Lord Jesus Christ, **UNTO** eternal LIFE.” ([Jude vs.21](#))
- “**IN** all these things, we are **MORE** than conquerors **THROUGH** Him that **LOVE** us.” ([Rom.8:37](#))

## I. The Choice is OURS: It’s Not made for us

Take hold of God's promises -- Attracts others to Him and His blessings;  
...Say, and practice, **I CAN!**

## J. More difficult to say?

...Yes it is!

Still harder to say,

### III. “I WILL”, demonstrating DETERMINATION

Paul said,

- “**I WILL** very gladly **SPEND** and **BE spent** for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.” ([2Cor.12:15](#))

#### A. OF all creation, we are the only ones who can weigh alter-natives, And DETERMINE to DO Right

- “If any man **WILL** do His will, he shall **KNOW** of the doctrine, whether it be **OF** God, or whether I speak of myself.” ([Jn.7:17](#))
- “For **IF** there be first a **WILLING mind**, it is **ACCEPTED** according to that a man **HATH**, and not according to that he hath not.” ([2Cor.8:12](#))

IF we'll be **FOLLOWERS** of Christ, **AS** Paul was,  
We'll **LIVE** our lives, with the **ATTITUDE** of,

#### B. I WILL, Depend on God, Always

The Hebrew writer said,

- “**I WILL** put my **TRUST IN HIM**.” ([Heb.2:13a](#))
- “**TRUST IN the Lord** with **ALL** thine **HEART**; and **lean NOT** unto thine **OWN** understanding.” ([Prov.3:5](#))

IF we'll be **FOLLOWERS** of Christ, **AS** Paul was,  
We'll **LIVE** our lives, with the **ATTITUDE** of,

#### C. I WILL, Follow Christ

“ANYWHERE WITH JESUS **I CAN**... WHERE HE LEADS ME **I WILL** FOLLOW”

[Matt.8:19](#) says,

- “a certain scribe came, and said unto (Jesus), Master, **I WILL FOLLOW** Thee, whithersoever Thou goest.”

Simon Peter said unto Jesus,

- “...at Thy Word **I WILL**...” ([Lk.5:5b](#))
- Jesus said, “If any man **WILL** come **AFTER** Me, let him **DENY** himself, and **TAKE** up his **CROSS** daily, and **FOLLOW** Me.” ([Lk.9:23](#))

IF we'll be **FOLLOWERS** of Christ, **AS** Paul was,  
We'll **LIVE** our lives, with the **ATTITUDE** of,

#### D. I WILL, redeem my time

- “**SEE** then that ye **WALK** circumspectly, **NOT** as fools, **BUT** as wise,  
<sup>16</sup> **REDEEMING** the **TIME** (or Making the **MOST** of your time),  
**BECAUSE** the days are **EVIL**.” ([Eph.5:15-16](#))

IF we'll be **FOLLOWERS** of Christ, **AS** Paul was,  
We'll **LIVE** our lives, with the **ATTITUDE** of,

#### E. I WILL, Be ready

- Paul said, “I am **DEBTOR** both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians;  
both to the wise, and to the unwise.” ([Rom.1:14](#))
- “for I am **READY** not to be **BOUND** only, but also to **DIE** at Jerusalem  
**FOR** the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus.” ([Acts 21:13](#))
- “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be **READY** always,  
to **GIVE** an answer, to every man that asketh you,  
a **REASON** of the hope that is in you, **WITH** meekness and fear.” ([1Pet.3:15](#))

IF we'll be **FOLLOWERS** of Christ, **AS** Paul was,  
We'll **LIVE** our lives, with the **ATTITUDE** of,

#### F. I WILL, Partake of spiritual life NOW, and forever

- “the Spirit and the bride say, **COME**. And let him that heareth say, **COME**.  
And let him that is athirst **COME**. And whosoever **WILL**, let him **TAKE** the water of life freely.” ([Rev.22:17](#))

IF we'll be **FOLLOWERS** of Christ, **AS** Paul was,  
We'll **LIVE** our lives, with the **ATTITUDE** of,

#### G. I WILL, Come back, IF erring

The prodigal son said,

- “I **WILL** arise and go **TO** my father, and will say unto him,  
Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,  
<sup>19</sup> and am no more worthy to be called thy son:  
make me as one of thy hired servants.  
<sup>20</sup> And he **AROSE**, and **CAME** to his father.” ([Lk.15:18-20a](#))

IF we'll be **FOLLOWERS** of Christ, **AS** Paul was,  
We'll **LIVE** our lives, with the **ATTITUDE** of,

#### H. I WILL, Always abound IN the Work of Lord

Because Jesus,

- “**GAVE** Himself for us, that He might **REDEEM** us from all iniquity,  
and **PURIFY** unto Himself a Peculiar people, Zealous of **Good WORKS**.” ([Titus 2:14](#))
- “For we are His workmanship, Created **IN** Christ Jesus, unto **Good WORKS**,  
which God hath before ordained, that we should **WALK** in them.” ([Eph.2:10](#))

## I. The Diary, of 18th Century preacher, Jonathan Edwards, states:

- "Resolved, FIRST, that every man should DO right, whatever it costs.
- "Resolved, SECONDLY, whether any other man does right or not, **I WILL**, so help me God."

If we say "I OUGHT", "I CAN", "I WILL", eventually we'll be able to say:

## IV. "I HAVE", demonstrating ACCOMPLISHMENT

- "through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto il-lyr-icum, **I HAVE** fully preached the gospel of Christ." (Paul said in [Rom.15:19](#))
- "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.  
<sup>7</sup> **I HAVE** fought a good fight, **I HAVE** finished my course, **I HAVE** kept the faith:  
<sup>8</sup> henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also, that love His appearing." ([2Tim.4:6-8](#))

### A. Some Make Excuses, And Say "No One Else HAS" And Make themselves equally Worthless

We need to be,

- "**DOERS** of the Word, and **NOT** hearers only, **DECEIVING** your own selves." ([Jas.1:22](#))

Our accomplishments should include,

### B. I HAVE, fled for refuge

- God is, "**WILLING** more abundantly to **SHEW** unto the **HEIRS** of promise, the **IMMUTABILITY** of His counsel, **CONFIRMED** it by an oath:  
<sup>18</sup> that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might **HAVE**, a strong **CONSOLATION**, who **HAVE** fled for **REFUGE** to **LAY HOLD** upon the **HOPE** set before us:" (reads [Heb.6:17-18](#))
- "For as many of you as have been baptized **INTO** Christ, have put **ON** Christ." ([Gal.3:27](#))

Our accomplishments should include,

### C. I HAVE, crucified the flesh

- "they that **ARE** Christ's, **HAVE** Crucified the flesh **WITH** the affections and lusts." ([Gal.5:24](#))
- Paul said, "I am **Crucified** **WITH** Christ: nevertheless I **LIVE**; yet **NOT** I, but **Christ** liveth **IN** me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live **BY** the **FAITH** of the Son of God, Who **LOVED** me, and **GAVE** Himself for me." ([Gal.2:20](#))

IF we **HAVE** found refuge in the God of heaven,  
And IF we **HAVE** crucified the flesh,  
Our Accomplishments will include,

#### D. I HAVE, blessed peace

- “Therefore being **JUSTIFIED** by Faith, we **HAVE PEACE** with God **THROUGH** our Lord Jesus Christ:” ([Rom.5:1](#))
- “God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye **HAVE OBEYED** from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.  
<sup>18</sup> Being then made free from sin, ye became the **SERVANTS** of righteousness.” ([Rom.6:17-18](#))
- “Seeing ye **HAVE PURIFIED** your **SOULS** in **OBEYING** the **Truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:” ([1Pet.1:22](#))
- “**IF** we **WALK** in the **LIGHT**, as He is in the **LIGHT**, we **HAVE FELLOWSHIP** one with another, and the **BLOOD** of Jesus Christ His Son **CLEANSETH** us from all sin.” ([1Jn.1:7](#))
- “Whosoever transgresseth (or sins), and abideth **NOT** in the doctrine (or Teaching) **OF** Christ, hath **NOT** God. He that abideth **IN** the doctrine **OF** Christ, he **HATH** both the Father and the Son.” ([2Jn.vs.9](#))

What **SUCCESS** we can **HAVE**!

We Can **HAVE** and **ENJOY** the,

#### E. Final Triumph of, Full Eternal Reward

Paul said,

- “henceforth there is laid up for me a **CROWN** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall **GIVE** me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.” ([2Tim.4:8](#))
- “For we **KNOW** that **IF** our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved (that is, if we **DIE** in the flesh), we **HAVE a Building OF God**, an **HOUSE** not made with hands, **ETERNAL** in the heavens.” ([2Cor.5:1](#))
- “**BLESSED** are they that **DO** His commandments (or Word), that they may **HAVE Right** to the tree of **LIFE**, and may **ENTER** in through the gates **INTO** the city.” ([Rev.22:14](#))

## V. IN-CONCLUSION

At the end of life, If we could look back:  
Would we be spiritually Satisfied, with No Eternal Regrets?

God says we **CAN** be, but we Must **CHOOSE** to **DO** so.

We **OUGHT** to obey and Serve.

We **CAN**, but **WILL** we, so we can **HAVE** eternal Life?

Begin now to make these "**Four Powerful Words**" a part of your life.

- "arise, and **BE Baptized**, and **WASH Away** thy sins, **CALLING** on the **NAME** of the Lord." ([Acts 22:16](#))

The Lord Invites you,  
And we await to assist you.

Please COME now,  
While Together, we Stand and Sing.

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