

FROM IMPOSSIBLE TO  
I'M POSSIBLE!  
PHILLIPIANS 4:13

THE POWER OF SELF-  
DETERMINATION IN CHRIST

Dr. Darryl T. Canady

RODMAN STREET CHURCH | FEBRUARY 8, 2026

# **FROM IMPOSSIBLE TO I'M POSSIBLE!**

## **PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

**DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

**2.8.26**

**Title: From Impossible to I'm Possible: The Power of Self-Determination in Christ**

**Sermon Summary:** This powerful message challenges us to move from 'impossible' to 'I'm possible' through the principle of self-determination rooted in Christ. Drawing from Philippians 4:13, we're reminded that our strength doesn't come from our own abilities, education, or circumstances—it comes from Christ who infuses us with inner power. This sermon explores the second principle of Kwanzaa, Kujichagulia (self-determination), through a Christian lens, emphasizing that true self-determination comes not from self-confidence but from Christ-confidence. Pastor Canady challenges the congregation to reject the world's labels and limitations, instead embracing their identity as defined by God. Using the Apostle Paul's declaration in Philippians 4:13, the message demonstrates how believers can move from viewing situations as "impossible" to declaring "I'm possible" through Christ's empowerment.

The sermon addresses racial injustice, the importance of legacy-building in the Black community, and the necessity of faith-filled perseverance in fulfilling God-given assignments. Throughout history, our ancestors faced impossible odds—building schools without resources, fighting for freedom without protection, raising families in hostile environments—yet they persevered because they understood that God supplies strength for every assigned task. This isn't about self-confidence; it's about Christ-

confidence, about refusing to let statistics, setbacks, or systems define our identity. When we embrace our God-given calling, we discover three profound truths: we receive strength for every God-assigned task, success in every God-ordained endeavor, and supply for every God-recognized need. The message beautifully illustrates this through the seven-year journey of establishing LIFE Male STEAM Academy, proving that what looks impossible to the world becomes possible when we walk in obedience to God's assignment for our lives.

## **Chapters**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction to Self-Determination and Kwanzaa Principles**

We explore the principle of Kujichagulia (self-determination) from Kwanzaa, understanding how it aligns with biblical faith and empowers us to define ourselves through God's truth rather than the world's labels.

### **Chapter 2: Strength for Every God-Assigned Task**

We discover that God provides supernatural strength for every task He assigns, not based on our own abilities but through Christ who infuses us with inner power to accomplish His purposes.

### **Chapter 3: Success in Every God-Ordained Endeavor**

We understand that victory in God's Kingdom is measured not by comfort but by faithful completion, as we persist in obedience even when outcomes are uncertain and progress seems slow.

### **Chapter 4: Supply for Every God-Recognized Need**

We learn that God faithfully supplies all our needs according to His riches, not our desires, when we walk in obedience to His purpose and calling.

## **Chapter 5: Invitation to Personal Relationship with Christ**

We are invited to establish or renew our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, recognizing that He is the source of our identity, strength, and provision.

### **Key Points:**

- Self-determination (Kujichagulia) means defining yourself through God's truth rather than the world's labels
- True strength comes from Christ-infusion, not self-generation
- Black people were historically told they were impossible, but faith declares "I am who God says I am"
- God never assigns a task without providing the strength needed to complete it
- Victory is measured by faithful completion, not comfort or convenience
- Success often comes to those who persevere even when results are slow or uncertain
- God supplies needs connected to His purpose, not every desire we invent
- Our ancestors survived not because they had power, but because they had principles
- The LIFE Male STEAM Academy stands as testimony to God's faithfulness in impossible situations
- Faith and family must work together for generational victory
- Obedience precedes provision in God's economy
- We must reject racist systems that attempt to define and limit us

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Philippians 4:13 (primary text): "I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me. I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me. I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency."
- Philippians 4:19: "And my God shall supply all of your need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus"

### **Stories:**

- The seven-year journey of establishing the LIFE Male STEAM Academy, facing skepticism and delays including the 2020 pandemic, but ultimately becoming the largest tenant in Penn Center East Complex
- The burning of Rodman Street Church by a racist in the 1970s, yet the church's continued existence and ministry
- President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle being disrespected through racist imagery by the current administration, illustrating ongoing racial prejudice
- Personal testimony about the pastor's grandmothers who couldn't read or write but worked as domestic help and cafeteria workers, yet provided for their families through faith
- Nafis Hill's promotion to VP of Finance at Emory University Hospitals after UPMC failed to recognize his value
- The pastor's daughter Essence wisdom during the pandemic, comparing postponing the school opening to the Olympics delay

- Personal story about the pastor's grandmother having credit at the Jewish store where family could get supplies by saying "Ma sent me"
- Ancestors who built schools they never attended, founded churches they never pastored, and fought for rights they never fully enjoyed

## **Scripture References from the Sermon**

### **Explicitly Mentioned:**

1. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (primary text, quoted multiple times)
2. Philippians 4:19 - "And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"
3. Psalm 139:14 - Alluded to: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made"
4. Ezekiel 37 - Referenced: God's question "Can these bones live?" (from the Valley of Dry Bones)
5. Matthew 28:20 - Alluded to: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world"

### **Strongly Alluded To:**

6. Genesis 1:26-27 - "Created in God's image" (mentioned multiple times)
7. Deuteronomy 28:13 - "The head and not the tail"
8. Deuteronomy 28:3-6 - Blessings in the city and field, coming and going
9. Romans 10:9 - Salvation confession pattern used at the end
10. Luke 2:7 - Mary, Joseph, and Jesus with no room in the inn

11. Ruth 1-4 - Ruth and Naomi sustained during famine
12. 1 Kings 17:8-16 - Widow's oil provision
13. Exodus 16 - Manna in the wilderness for children of Israel

#### **Relevant Verses Aligned with Sermon Themes:**

14. 2 Corinthians 12:9 - "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"
15. Jeremiah 29:11 - God's plans and purposes for His people
16. Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you"
17. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart
18. Romans 8:31 - "If God be for us, who can be against us?"
19. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - New creation in Christ
20. Ephesians 2:10 - Created for good works

#### **QUOTES:**

It always seems impossible until it's done. Historically, Black people were told that you are impossible, you are incapable, you are unqualified, and you are inferior. But Kujichagulia arose as a response and said, we will name ourselves.

This message is not about self-confidence. It's about Christ-confidence or God-fidence. It's not just me believing in me. It's me believing what God has said about me.

I define myself through Christ and not through limitation. I define myself through Christ and not my race. I define myself through Christ and not my gender. I define myself through Christ and not my education.

God doesn't call what He won't empower. God doesn't assign what He won't strengthen. And God doesn't send you out without giving you the supplies that you need.

Victory in God's Kingdom is not measured by comfort. It is measured by completion. Many of us start out good, but we get tired and quit. Self-determination says, I decide to remain faithful even when the outcome is uncertain.

God supplies needs that He recognizes, not desires we invent. God never ignores a need that is connected to His purpose. If God assigned the task, He recognizes the need.

Where God guides, He provides. If it is God's will, it is God's bill. If it is God's choice, it is God's invoice.

They said it was impossible, but Christ made me possible. I have strength for the task. I have victory in my journey. And I have supply for my need because I am possible.

## **FROM IMPOSSIBLE TO I'M POSSIBLE!**

### **PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

#### **DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

#### **2.8.26**

#### **5-Day Devotional: From Impossible to I'm Possible**

#### **Day 1: Strength for Every Assignment**

**Reading:** Philippians 4:10-13

**Devotional:** Paul writes from prison, yet declares, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This isn't self-confidence—it's Christ-confidence. God never assigns a task without supplying the



strength to complete it. Our ancestors understood this truth, moving forward with assignments before they had resources, building schools they'd never attend, fighting for rights they'd never fully enjoy. They had strength for the task because God infused them with inner power.

Today, what assignment has God placed before you? Don't wait for perfect conditions. God has already accounted for the strength you'll need. The fuel injection into your spiritual engine comes not from your education, connections, or comfort—it comes from Christ living within you. If God assigned it, you are equipped for it.

**Reflection:** What impossible task is God calling you to attempt today with His strength?

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## **Day 2: Defining Yourself Through God's Truth**

**Reading:** Psalm 139:13-18

**Devotional:** Kujichagulia—self-determination—means refusing to let others define you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image. The world may label you by your past, your pain, your statistics, or your setbacks, but God calls you His beloved child. Self-determination under God means choosing to believe what God says about you over what circumstances, history, or people declare.

You didn't begin in chains or on a ship—you began as royalty in God's Kingdom. When the world whispers "impossible," faith responds "I'm possible through Christ." This isn't arrogance; it's accepting your God-given identity. You define yourself through Christ, not through limitations, race, gender, education, or economic status.

**Reflection:** What false labels have you accepted about yourself that contradict God's truth? Write down three things God says about you.

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### **Day 3: Victory Through Faithful Perseverance**

**Reading:** Hebrews 12:1-3

**Devotional:** Victory in God's Kingdom isn't measured by comfort—it's measured by completion. Success looks different when faith and family are involved. Parents don't quit because children are watching. Churches don't retreat because communities are relying on them. Many of our ancestors never lived to see the fruit they planted, yet they kept going because they understood that victory is sometimes just planting the seed.

Paul's endurance wasn't just for himself—it was for the church and the next generation. Your faithfulness today creates a legacy for generations to come. Victory isn't quitting when it gets hard; it's staying faithful even when progress feels slow. When faith keeps you grounded and family keeps you growing, breakthrough becomes inevitable, not accidental.

**Reflection:** What are you tempted to quit that God is calling you to complete? Who is depending on your faithfulness?

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### **Day 4: God's Supply for God's Purpose**

**Reading:** Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:25-34

**Devotional:** "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory." Notice Paul doesn't discuss supply before obedience—he talks about supply after demonstrating faithfulness. God supplies needs He recognizes; not desires we invent. If God assigned the task, He recognizes the need. Where God guides, He provides. If it's God's will, it's God's bill.

Our ancestors didn't always have access, but they always had enough—enough food to share, enough faith to pray, enough strength to keep going,

enough hope to pass down. Provision doesn't always look like overflow; sometimes it looks like survival with dignity. God never ignores a need connected to His purpose. Keep moving in obedience, trusting God to provide.

**Reflection:** What need are you anxious about? How can you shift from worry to worship, trusting God's provision?

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## **Day 5: The Power of Jesus' Name**

**Reading:** Acts 4:8-12, Philippians 2:9-11

**Devotional:** There is power in the name of Jesus—power to heal, deliver, provide, and transform. When you're hungry, He is bread. When you're lonely, He is your comforter. When you're anxious, He gives peace. When you're weak, He gives strength. When you're afraid, He gives confidence. When you're empty, He keeps supplying. In that name, you shift from impossible to I'm possible.

Jesus is the one who woke you this morning, started you on your way, put shoes on your feet and food in your cupboards. You are who He says you are. You can do what He says you can do. He has promises for your life—confess them! You are victorious. You are a winner in Jesus' name. You're not second-class anything—you're a child of the King.

**Reflection:** Spend time today simply speaking the name of Jesus over every area of your life that feels impossible.

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**Closing Prayer:** Father, help me move from impossible to I'm possible. Give me strength for every assignment, success in every endeavor, and supply for every need. I am who You say I am. I can do what You say I can do. I am victorious in Jesus' name. Amen.

# **FROM IMPOSSIBLE TO I'M POSSIBLE!**

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**Small Group Guide: From Impossible to I'm Possible**

**Sermon Series:** The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

**Principle:** Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

**Text:** Philippians 4:13

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### **Opening Prayer**

Begin your group time asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth, and to help each person understand their identity in Christ rather than the world's labels.

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### **Ice Breaker (10 minutes)**

Share a time when someone told you something was "impossible," but you accomplished it anyway. What gave you the strength to push through?

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### **Key Scripture**

#### **Philippians 4:13 (Amplified)**

*"I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me. I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me. I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency."*

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## Sermon Summary

Pastor Canady explored **Kujichagulia** (self-determination), the second principle of Kwanzaa, through a Christian lens. True self-determination isn't self-confidence, but **Christ-confidence**—defining ourselves by God's truth rather than the world's labels. The sermon emphasized three key points:

1. **Strength for Every God-Assigned Task**
2. **Success in Every God-Ordained Endeavor**
3. **Supply for Every God-Recognized Need**

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## Discussion Questions

### Section 1: Understanding Self-Determination (15 minutes)

1. **What is the difference between self-confidence and Christ-confidence?** How does this distinction change the way we approach challenges?
2. Pastor Canady stated, "**I am who God says I am, not what history, statistics, or circumstances say about me.**" What are some labels the world has tried to place on you? How does God's Word counter those labels?
3. How does the principle of Kujichagulia (self-determination) align with biblical teachings about identity in Christ?

### Section 2: Strength for God-Assigned Tasks (20 minutes)

4. Read Philippians 4:13 together. What does it mean that Christ "**infuses inner strength**" into us?

5. Pastor Canady shared the story of LIFE Male STEAM Academy—how they moved forward with God's assignment before they had resources. **Have you ever felt God calling you to do something before you felt ready?** How did you respond?
6. The sermon emphasized: **"God never assigns something without supplying the strength you need to endure it."** Can you share a testimony of when God gave you strength for a difficult task?
7. What is a God-assigned task in your life right now that feels impossible? How can this group pray for and support you?

### **Section 3: Success Through Faithfulness (20 minutes)**

8. Pastor Canady said, **"Victory in God's Kingdom is not measured by comfort. It is measured by completion."** How does this challenge our culture's definition of success?
9. The sermon highlighted how our ancestors planted seeds they never saw harvested. **What are you planting now that may benefit the next generation?** How does this long-term perspective change your motivation?
10. **"Victory is not quitting when it gets hard. Victory is staying faithful even when it's slow."** Where in your life do you need to apply this truth right now?

### **Section 4: God's Provision (15 minutes)**

11. Philippians 4:19 promises: **"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory."** How is a "need" different from a "want"? Why does this distinction matter?
12. Pastor Canady shared stories of his grandmothers who didn't have much but always had enough. **What lessons about God's provision have been passed down in your family?**

13. The sermon stated: "**God never ignores a need that is connected to His purpose.**" How does knowing this change the way you pray and trust God?
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### **Key Takeaways**

- ✓ Self-determination under God means defining ourselves by His truth, not the world's labels
  - ✓ If God assigned the task, He has already provided the strength you need
  - ✓ Victory comes through faithful completion, not comfortable circumstances
  - ✓ God supplies needs that are connected to His purpose
  - ✓ We are not defined by our past, pain, or statistics—we are defined by God
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### **Practical Applications**

#### **This Week's Challenge:**

Choose ONE area to apply this week:

#### **Personal Identity:**

- Write down 5-10 scriptures that describe who God says you are
- Replace one negative thought about yourself with God's truth each day
- Memorize Philippians 4:13

**Family/Community:**

- Share with your family how God has provided for you
- Identify one way you can invest in the next generation
- Support a ministry or organization that empowers others (like LIFE Male STEAM Academy)

**Faith Action:**

- Take one step toward a God-assigned task you've been avoiding
- Pray specifically about a "need" (not a want) and trust God's provision
- Encourage someone who is facing an "impossible" situation

**Accountability:**

- Share your chosen application with the group
- Exchange contact information to check in during the week

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**Reflection Questions for Journaling**

- What "impossible" situation in my life needs to become "I'm possible"?
  - Where have I been letting the world define me instead of letting God define me?
  - What assignment has God given me that I've been avoiding due to lack of resources or confidence?
  - How can I demonstrate Kujichagulia (self-determination under God) this week?
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## **Prayer Focus**

### **Pray for:**

- Strength to complete God-assigned tasks
  - Freedom from labels and limitations others have placed on us
  - Faith to trust God's provision for our needs
  - The next generation—that they would know their identity in Christ
  - LIFE Male STEAM Academy and other ministries empowering our community
  - Those facing "impossible" situations to experience God's power
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### **Closing Prayer**

*Father, thank You that we are who You say we are. Help us to walk in the strength You provide, to faithfully complete what You've assigned, and to trust Your provision. Transform our impossibles into I'm possibles through Christ who strengthens us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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### **For Next Week**

- Read Philippians 4:10-20
  - Reflect on how God has provided for you in the past
  - Come prepared to share one testimony of God's faithfulness
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## **Additional Resources**

- Look up the full Seven Principles of Kwanzaa (Nguzo Saba)
- Research the history of LIFE Male STEAM Academy
- Study other biblical examples of God-given strength: Moses, Esther, David, Paul

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**Group Leader Note:** Create space for authentic sharing. Some may be struggling with deep issues of identity, racism, or feeling "impossible." Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and be prepared to pray with individuals who need encouragement.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How does the principle of Kujichagulia (self-determination) challenge you to redefine your identity through God's truth rather than society's labels or your past circumstances?
2. In what areas of your life have you allowed others to define you, and how can you shift from accepting 'impossible' to declaring 'I'm possible' through Christ?
3. Pastor Canady emphasizes that strength is given for tasks, not titles. What God-assigned task in your life requires you to trust in Christ's strength rather than your own qualifications?
4. How does understanding that God never assigns something without supplying the strength to endure it change your perspective on current challenges you're facing?
5. The sermon discusses how our ancestors often had assignments before they had resources. What assignment has

God given you that requires faith to move forward before seeing provision?

6. Pastor Canady states that victory is measured by completion, not comfort. How does this reframe your understanding of success in your spiritual journey and ministry?
7. What is the difference between self-confidence and Christ-confidence, and how can you cultivate more of the latter in your daily walk with God?
8. How does the concept that God supplies needs He recognizes, not desires we invent, challenge your prayer life and expectations of God's provision?
9. In what ways can you set a spiritual tone for your family by example, ensuring that faith and values are passed down to the next generation?
10. The sermon emphasizes that faithfulness matters more than instant results. Where in your life do you need to remain faithful even when progress feels slow or invisible?

