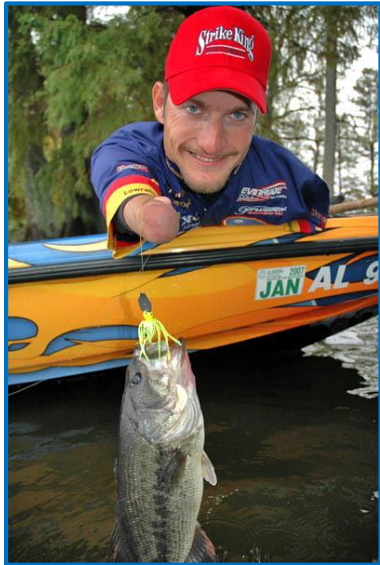


'If Clay Can, I Can!'

Clay Dyer was born in Hamilton, Alabama, in 1978 with no legs and only the small stump of a right arm, and yet he is a well-known professional bass fisherman and motivational speaker in churches across the country.



He started fishing at age 5 and began tournament fishing at age 15. He refuses to use special equipment, wanting to cast with one hand as other fishermen do with two. He reels fish in while holding the end of the rod under his chin. He ties knots with his tongue and unhooks fish with his teeth. Dyer is also an assistant football coach at Hamilton High School.

“When I was about 4 ½ years old or so, I said, ‘Daddy, why did God make me like this?’ My dad looked at me and said, ‘Son, I don’t know, but I know God doesn’t make mistakes.’ When I look back on it, I realize that I didn’t see it at the time, but God knew when He made me, He made me for a purpose to be able to go out and witness and encourage people to live for Him.”

Dyer has a T-shirt available that is emblazoned with the slogan, *If Clay Can I Can*. Also included is a reference to Philippians 4:13: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*.

It is his way of encouraging others to overcome whatever obstacles they face.

A surface reading of that verse, however, can give you the impression that God will empower you to achieve just about anything you want. Talk about positive thinking!

Philippians 4:13 is often cited by athletes and patients as proof that God will help them overcome hurdles. And He does help us to do that. But there is more to the verse than that.

What about failure? Returning to the sports theme, what about when the star baseball player strikes out in a crucial situation? Or the NFL quarterback fumbles the ball inside his own 20-yard line? And what about the rest of us who can't hit a baseball 500 feet or run a marathon in a little more than two hours?



(more)

Does that mean God's promise is null and void? Absolutely not!

This well-known verse is not only a statement of God's power, it is also a pronouncement of His encouragement. No matter what happens in your life – good or bad – God can help you get through it. “I can do all things” can also be read as “I am able to handle all things through Him who strengthens me.”

I don't know what you may be dealing with today; perhaps some incredibly tough circumstances. The key is to keep your eyes on His promise and trust Him to provide the strength that you need.

In this way, you really can do all things through Him who strengthens you!

– Beecher Hunter