

## “Faithfully Big or Doubtfully Small”

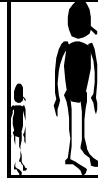
By Mrs. Sojourner

Are you faithfully big, or are you doubtfully small?

Go with me to Numbers 13 where the spies sent to scout out the Promised Land reported to the Israelites that they found the land as plentiful as the Lord promised, but that there were some challenges to be dealt with when they go take the Land as the Lord instructed.

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 ... They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 ... We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." Numbers 13:30-33 (NIV)

Did the Lord promise Israel that the Promised Land was void of people? No, he promised to give them the



Notes:

[a] Exodus 6:6-8  
[b] Deut. 7:1-2

land as their possession. [a] He also spoke about driving nations out before his people, and delivering the occupying people into Israel's hands and that then Israel would defeat the occupiers. [b] So the Israelites were to be involved in the battle. But some people doubted what the Lord said, and only saw themselves as small. They were doubtfully small. Only Joshua and Caleb and their families kept in the forefront of their hearts that the God of the Universe promised them this land, therefore they could take the land, not because of how great they themselves are, but because of how great God is. They knew they were big because they were God's people, therefore they were faithfully big. Let us consider these two groups, and determine which one we wish to be. We will walk

The Sojourner  
Sojourner's Fellowships  
717-C West High Street  
Manchester, TN 37355-1694

Phone: 931-409-1406  
Toll Free: 800-391-6944

Email:  
[thesojourner@sojournershub.org](mailto:thesojourner@sojournershub.org)



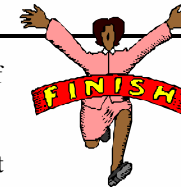
# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

## “I Can, Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)



You know, in the Body of Christ today there is almost an aversion to the use of the word “I.” Most of us are put off by the use of the word “I,” especially, if a person is bragging or boasting about themselves.

The words “brag”<sup>[1]</sup> or “boast”<sup>[2]</sup> are also viewed as troublesome by many Believers. The key here seems to be the speaking of oneself in an arrogant manner. Now, here is the question, “Can we brag or boast about our Lord in a non-arrogant manner and still remain within the bounds of propriety? Can this actually be what is happening when a Believer testifies as to what the Lord has done in their life or the lives of others?” “Yes, certainly is the answer!”

As a matter of fact, the prophet Elijah would most likely be seen as indecent and out of order as he taunted the false prophets before he demonstrated the power of God in the contest between a true

prophet of the one true God, as opposed to the prophets of a false god.

### I Can

Notes:

Now, let's revisit the word “I.” Earlier, the demise of the word “I” in the Body of Christ was mentioned. Let's examine how the statement the Apostle Paul made in his letter might have been received in today's culture. Paul said “I can do all things....” Yes, to stop there would be making the quote of Paul a bit out of context, but we must be careful not to allow the “I” word to disappear because it is important. Yes, in the remaining part of the statement Paul gives credit to Christ as the empowering reason he can do all things, but in today's politically correct culture how would that be perceived or received? Many might be saying he was arrogant regarding his seeing himself as closer to the Lord than other believers. He could be tagged as being “better than” other Believers in his own

[1] A boast. Arrogant or boastful speech or manner. Something boasted of.

[2] To glorify oneself in speech; talk in a self-admiring way.

[3] 1 Kings 18:27

**Scripture:**

**Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)**

NIV

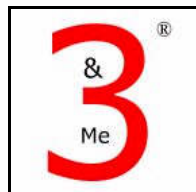
Notes:  
[a]

<sup>12</sup>I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup>I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

KJV

<sup>12</sup>I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

<sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.



**“I Can, Resurrected!”** (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)

mind. This is not the way his statement has been viewed over the 2000 years or so which have passed, but what if he had said it to someone today, in conversation, after services one day, what then.

Notes:

Believers are in the culture, but not of the culture, in which they are blessed by God to live out their lives. Believers must, therefore, be cautious regarding the acceptance of cultural standards of speech and thought.

Could it be that by banning the word “I” from the acceptable vocabulary the attitude of “I can’t” has crept into the collective “group think.”

**O Yes, I Can!**

Believers need to adopt a vocabulary of, “O yes, I can do all things through the power of the Christ, the risen Lord who lives in me!”

While some may say, and rightfully so, in the words of Paul, it is not I but Christ which lives in me. The Holy Spirit will not function in and through the Believer unless the believer, the “I,” permits him to do so. So resurrect, “I can, with Christ in me!”