



THRIVE 2021 – Living an Unstoppable Life 17th January 2021 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

Questions to ask yourself...

1. Am I feeling stuck when it comes to Kingdom purposes?
2. Am I focussed on the right course?
3. Are there areas of change in me, in my life? What needs to start, stop, continue?
4. Am I flexible and adaptable in change?

Engage:

5. Have you ever felt like giving up? What led to this situation?
6. What can we do to keep ourselves steady and moving?

“So, take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees.
Mark out a straight path for your feet...”
Hebrews 12:12-13

7. What long term issues make you feel like giving up?
 - Lost expectations/Unfulfilled dreams – nothing to live for?
 - Overwhelmed by ongoing circumstances?
8. Read [1 Kings 19](#)
9. What lessons can we learn from Elisha?
10. Why was he depressed under a tree?
11. Read [Philippians 4:10-14](#)
 - Paul was grateful for Philippian church support.
 - His dependence and strength were primarily rooted in his relationship with Christ, not a dependence on external provision.
 - Paul begins to elaborate on this in the text.
12. What does true concern produce? (Phil 4:10)
 - General thoughts/opinions (concerns) of others may be limited.
 - True concern takes initiative / action (it is more than simple awareness).
 - Paul in prison – in another country – those outside were limited in their ability to help and show their concern.

- Philippians revived their concern and took deliberate action.
13. What does 'revived' mean? [*Greek: anathallō*] (only used once in New Testament)
 - Paul commended the Philippians, but also knew he wasn't ultimately dependent on them.
 14. Do you want to rediscover God's direction in your life?
 15. What are the positive kingdom concerns that the Holy Spirit is giving you?
 - (Be careful that you're not caught up in 'negative concerns' about others - this could be damaging or develop dangerously as simply criticism.)
 16. What needs to be revived in you personally?
 17. Will you do anything to make a difference?

"True concern is not just knowing there's a pressure, but asking,
"What can I do about that pressure?""

Pastor Mark Wiltshire

Framework:

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 31:19

- God so often delivers His 'new thing' through us His church, that's us personally and corporately.
18. What is my response in a wilderness time?
 19. Withdraw, wait, or to expect God to 'make a way'?
 - God wants to prepare us for a humanly impossible future!
 - We need to be willing to learn/apply Kingdom principles.
 - We are being equipped for an unstoppable life.
 20. What does Philippians 4:11 say needs to be learned?
 21. Is my life stuck because of what I have decided I don't have, or what I can't do without?
 22. (Phil 4:12) The Secret of Living: adapting to changing situations, storms, seasons, no matter what comes at me -

➤ 2 Tests:

- **Having a lot** – Are you releasing what you don't need? (US inverse tithers...living on 10% not the 90%)
 - **Having a little** - Accepting what you don't have? (finances or food match Paul's illustration)
23. What have been the biggest challenges in Lockdown – loss of choices, health, freedom?
 24. In this 3rd lockdown could God do something amazing in your job, your home, your marriage, or somewhere else?

“Learning to live on inner resources not outer resources.”

David Pawson (Commentary on Philippians)

“Who is the wealthiest man on earth?
The man who is content with the least.”

Socrates, Greek Philosopher

25. Can we really do everything in Christ? (Phil 4:13)
26. Another ‘Fridge Magnet’ Bible quote... “I can do everything”, but what does this REALLY mean?
- Everything that God has called me to be/do (change/achieve).
 - To be able to do everything, without ‘depending’ on anything material to make this happen (external).
 - God gives you strength to see those things accomplished.
 - David Pawson suggestion: **“I can do ‘without’ everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”**
27. Paul discovered an unstoppable life! He learned to thrive in times of great personal pressure.

“...I was given a thorn in the flesh... to stop me becoming proud.”

2 Corinthians 12:7

“Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

- God’s grace can take us through every challenging situation:
- Grace is capacity
 - Grace is guidance
 - Grace is confident knowledge
28. Read [Isaiah 58:11](#)
- Gods Promises are reliable...
 - Satisfies your real needs - spiritually
 - Strengthens you - physically
 - Spring of water for others – unstoppable

Conclusion:

Can we live an unstoppable life? Yes... By learning to understand what we don’t need and how to handle the things we have. Learning to be content!