SOUL SURFER

I CAN DO ALL THINGS

Trusting God in the Impact Zone. We can keep our faith strong and overcome adversity through Christ, who strengthens and encourages us.



Scene Setup:

Less than two days have passed since Bethany lost her arm in a shark attack. She is still in her hospital room, and her father, Tom Hamilton, is keeping a quiet vigil beside her bed. When Bethany awakens, she looks to her father for assurance that she can overcome her tragic loss and get back to the sport she loves. As Tom comforts Bethany, he reminds her of a biblical promise from her Heavenly Father.

SOUL SURFER Quote:

Bethany: "When can I surf?"
Tom: "Soon."
Bethany: "How do you know?"
Tom: "Because you 'Can do all things …'"
Bethany: "… through Him who gives me strength."

Key Scripture:

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. *–Philippians 4:13 (NASB)*

Study and Discuss:

Read: Philippians 4:11–13

1. The Apostle Paul, the author of this passage, faced plenty of adversity in his life, yet in this Scripture, what did he say he had learned to be? Why is this concept so important?
2. Does this Scripture mean that we can achieve anything we want, or does it refer to remaining strong and faithful in the midst of life's challenges? Explain your answer based on your reading of the passage.
3. Where does our strength need to come from when we face difficulties in life? How can you access this strength?

Read: John 14:25–27 and 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

1. Where in these verses do you see ways in which God enables us to "do all things"? What does God give to us?
2. When we face adversity, the most important gift God offers us is Himself. How do these passages reinforce that truth?

Read: Romans 8:28

1. What are some of the positive things Bethany has in her life? What good came out of the tragic loss of her arm?
2. If Bethany had not lost her arm in the shark attack, do you think she would have inspired as many people as she did?

Lessons in Becoming a SOUL SURFER

To a surfer, the impact zone is the place where the waves break the hardest and the most consistently. As each wave crests and then falls, it meets the main body of water and creates an effect almost like that of a powerful washing machine—pouring rough, cold water onto surfers and flipping them around as if they were caught in a spin cycle! It's not a place where you want to be. Consider, though, that once surfers get past the impact zone, they arrive at exactly the right spot for catching the best waves. The impact zone is what a *Soul Surfer* comes through before reaching the place where he or she can be the most effective. In Romans 8:28, God assures us that, "In all things God works for the good of those who love him." Even when we're in the middle of the impact zone feeling tremendous stress, anxiety, and pain, God has something good planned—just over the horizon.



For a four-week video-based study for your family, adult small group, or youth ministry, visit **SoulSurferOutreach.com**. You will find more information on the ***SOUL SURFER* DVD-based Study** from Outreach, Inc., as well as books, study materials, and church resources. The SOUL SURFER study is the ultimate combination of faith, film, and family!

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