

Philippians 2:12-13 *Wherefore, my [Paul] beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. <sup>13</sup>For it is God which worketh in you both to will [you a desire] and to do of [and the ability to do] his good pleasure.*

## 1. Introduction

- a. Salvation happens in an instant, but Christian growth is a lifetime process.  
*Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove [that you can be sure] what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
- b. From Philippians 2:5 - 11, we see that Jesus:
  - i. Was Himself God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit
  - ii. Humbled Himself
  - iii. Laid aside His deity
  - iv. Came down to earth
  - v. Became a servant
  - vi. Became obedient to His Father's will (death on the cross)
- c. The Philippians were:
  - i. A loving people, obedient to Christ because of their love for Christ
  - ii. A persistent people, obedient to God as they understood His will
  - iii. A faithful people, obedient without Paul's (or anyone else's) supervision
- d. Christ's death, burial, & resurrection (the gospel) transforms & changes Christian's life  
*1 Corinthian 15:10 But by the grace of God I [Paul] am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me [was given to me] was not in vain [not without results]; but I labored more abundantly [I worked harder] than they [than the other apostles] all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

## 2. Command to do God's Work

- a. Command to "...work out your own salvation..."
  - i. Salvation is a free gift, but it begins a person's relationship with God
  - i. Sanctification is theological word meaning how God works in Christian's life to continue changing you into His likeness throughout your life.

- ii. Christian has choice to do God's work in their life:
  - a) Yield to the Holy Spirit
  - b) Praise Him every time you see Him working in your life
  - c) Forgive others the same way He forgives you
  - d) Get to know Him as you read His Word
- b. Caution in the work "...with fear and trembling...":
  - i. Aware of His power, a holy awe and respect for God (omnipotence)  
 Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*
  - ii. Aware of His presence continually in your life (omnipresence)  
 Psalm 37:23 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*
  - iii. Aware of our accountability to Him  
 Hebrews 4:13 *Neither is there any creature [person] that is not manifest in his sight [that cannot be always be seen by Him]: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do [we must give account].*
  - iv. On display for the world to see  
 Ephesians 4:13 *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect [mature] man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ [until we all become fully like Christ]:*
- c. Inner resolution
  - i. Everything is based on Jesus work on the cross & His resurrection. A Christian's resolution to work and serve is done out of heart of thankfulness to God  
 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *For the love of Christ constraineth [controls] us; because we thus judge [we reason this way:], that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that [because] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth [should from now on not] live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them [Jesus], and rose again.*
  - ii. Doing God's work not based on:
    - *Someone else's expectations.* Other people's relationship with God will be different than yours, but all are based on Christ's payment that bought us out of the slavery of sin.
    - *Becoming more valuable to God.* Our value to God was demonstrated to us before we were saved, see Romans 5:8
    - *For God to love us more.* He will never love you more, and He showed this love on the cross.

- iii. We need to fall in love with Christ again like when we were saved
- d. Live out Christian life
  - i. Sanctification is continuous ongoing process
 

Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that he [God] which hath begun a good work in you [at your salvation] will perform it [continue to develop you] until the day of Jesus Christ [day when Jesus Christ returns]:*
  - ii. God gave His Holy Spirit & the Scriptures to guide each Christian
 

Proverbs 15:33 *The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom [the LORD teaches wisdom]; and before honor is humility.*
- 3. Companion in God's Work "...God which worketh in you..."
  - a. The Companion is God Himself working in me (The Holy Spirit)
    - i. The Christian life is lived from the inside, not just outwardly
 

Romans 8:15, 16 *For ye [Christians] have not received the spirit of bondage [slavery] again to fear; but ye have received the [Holy] Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba<sup>1</sup>, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*
    - ii. God gives Christian energy (power) to live Christian life
 

John 15:4 *Abide<sup>2</sup> in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye [bear fruit], except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same [that person] bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
  - b. God chooses to work through me as I abide in Him
    - i. God works what is well-pleasing in His sight (not according to Christian's expectations)
 

Hebrews 13:21 *Now the God of peace...make you perfect [mature] in every good work to do his will, **working** [developing] **in you that which is well pleasing in his sight**, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

John 17:17 *Sanctify them [Jesus' disciples] through thy [God, the Father's] truth: thy word is truth.*

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<sup>1</sup> This word "Abba" has no absolute translation into English, but a close equivalent would be the word "daddy" or "papa", an intimate relationship with your personal father. As you would not call your friends father "daddy," and you would not want her to call your father "daddy", the special term here refers to God as someone with whom we have a one-of-a-kind relationship which no one else has. The term occurs only here, in Mark 14:36, and in Galatians 4:6.

<sup>2</sup> The word "Abide" here means to be connected to something, particularly something that your life depends on. The word can be translated in many ways, such as to live in, such as a house, apartment, or tent; to live somewhere, such as a foreign country or a vacation place; to stay for a particular length of time, such as a planting or harvesting season; or to remain in a particular relationship, such as marriage or as a student learning from a teacher. Context controls how the word is translated.

- ii. God's will include trials of a Christian's faith to accomplish what He wants to do in your life

James 1:3, 4 *Knowing this, that the trying [testing] of your faith worketh [develops] patience. But let patience have her [its] perfect work, that ye may be perfect [mature] and entire [complete], wanting nothing [not lacking anything].*

4. Completion of God's work, verse 13

- a. "...to will..." the desire to please God
  - i. Will is Christian's inward resolve or determination or intent
  - ii. God gives the desire based on our response to His love for us
- b. "...to do..." the ability to please God
  - i. Outward God-given energy to work
  - ii. Christian's goal is to be more like Jesus
  - iii. We should be wanting to behave as children seeking our Father's good pleasure

5. Conclusion

- a. My life in Christ is lived from inside-out
- b. Have living presence of God in my life