

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)

Work Out

I will start at the beginning. **What beginning?** The beginning of my salvation. The start of my faith in you. **Why is that important?** I don't want there to be any confusion. I don't want there to be any misunderstanding. I want to keep the truth in the forefront of my mind. I want to hold the truth firmly in my heart. **What is the truth?** You secured my salvation for me. Your death on the cross paid for my sins. You have forgiven me of my sin and cleansed me of my unrighteousness. I cannot possibly earn or merit your salvation. Your salvation has come to me as a gift. You rescued me from a life without you. You helped me to turn away from my sin so I could begin to love and follow and serve you. You have restored my soul. You are now leading me on the path of righteousness. You have adopted me in your family. I am your child. You have filled me with your spirit. I am now living out, or working out, the new life of salvation you have given me to live. **Yes, you are.** I must never think that I have done, am doing, or could do anything to earn or merit your salvation. **That is true.**

But now it is time for me to keep on living out or working out my life of salvation. You have places for me to go. You have things for me to do. **Yes, I do. So, what will living out or working out your salvation look like? How will you live out or work out your life of salvation?** I will live in an intimate relationship with you. I will draw near to you. You will draw near to me. **Yes, I will.** I will meet with you in your word. I will meet with you in worship. I will meet with you in prayer. I will meet with you in service. I will live my life in a constant dialogue with you. I will live to do what is good and right and pleasing to you. You will help me to know and do your will. **Yes, I will.** You will mold and shape my life as I continue to live out and work out the life of salvation you have given me to live with and for you. **That will be very good.** Yes, it will.

Lord, it is the desire of my heart to both know and do what is pleasing to you. Do your work in me. Help me to exercise my faith. Give me the strength to know and do your will. I will work out my life of salvation as I continue to love and follow and serve you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ*Work Out*

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

NIV

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ*Work Out*

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

ESV

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ*Work Hard*

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

NLT

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ*Work Out*

Therefore, my beloved, as you 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; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

NKJV

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ*Work Out*

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

NRSV

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ*Be Energetic*

What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

MSG

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ*Work Out*

Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always obeyed [my suggestions], so now, not only [with the enthusiasm you would show] in my presence but much more because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling (self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ). [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

AMP

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ *Do The Good Things*

Dearest friends, when I was there with you, you were always so careful to follow my instructions. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to do the good things that result from being saved, obeying God with deep reverence, shrinking back from all that might displease him. For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants.

TLB

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ*Work Out*

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

NASB

Philippians 2:12-13

Becoming Like Christ *Working To Complete*

My dear friends, you have always obeyed God when I was with you. It is even more important that you obey now while I am away from you. Keep on working to complete your salvation with fear and trembling, because God is working in you to help you want to do and be able to do what pleases him.

NCV

Philippians 2:12-13

Work Out

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Philippians 2:12-13

In Context: *Read Philippians 2*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, it is the desire of my heart to both know and do what is pleasing to you. Do your work in me. Help me to exercise my faith. Give me the strength to know and do your will. I will work out my life of salvation as I continue to love and follow and serve you. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What work has been involved in your growing in the salvation that Christ secured for you on the cross?

What role do you have in growing to become a vibrant and effective follower of Jesus Christ?

What similarities are there between the work of spiritual growth and the work of physical exercise?

What has helped or hindered you in having the will to know and do work that is pleasing to God?

How has the Lord been strengthening your will to do the work that is pleasing to Him?

What work has the Lord given you to do since you began to love, follow and serve Him?

How has your life born fruit for God and brought glory to His name as you have followed and served Him?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Grow in your salvation and allow your faith to be exercised so you can know and do what is pleasing to God.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will give you the will to know and do what is pleasing to Him.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how your will to know and do God’s work is growing in you.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May it be your will and your work to do what is pleasing to God.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, it is my will and work to do what is pleasing to you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you strengthen my will to do the work that is pleasing to you?
