



GOD'S PART & MY PART IN CHANGING ME
Philippians 2:12-13

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*Philippians 2:12-13 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; ¹³ for it is God who works **in** you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (NKJV)*

The “Work **out**” of Philippians 2:12 is our part. The “Work **in**” (Philippians 2:13) is God's part. We are to work out what God is working in.

This doesn't say “work **for**” your salvation. It says “work **out**” your salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "...Is not of works, lest any man should boast."

These are already Christians to whom Paul is writing in Philippians 2. Obviously, he is saying develop what you already have. Work out the implications. If you're born again, **start growing**. Work out the further maturing of your spiritual life.

God says that we are to strive to grow spiritually “...with fear and trembling...”. He isn't saying that we should grow in fear that somehow we will lose our salvation or that God will somehow reject us. The “fear and trembling” means that we are afraid we might **miss out** on something important that God wants us to have. In other words, take your salvation and your own personal growth **seriously**. Work at it as though it is the most important thing in your life.

I. GOD'S PART: GOD USES **THREE** TOOLS TO CHANGE OUR LIVES.

A. God uses the **Bible** to change us.

1. *2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

2. *2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Paraphrase) “The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it **straightens** us out and helps us do what is right. ¹⁷ It is God’s way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.”*
3. The Bible changes our **thoughts** so it can change our actions.
4. *Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

B. God uses His **Holy Spirit to change us.**

1. *Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He ...will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.”*
2. God’s plan is to show us **how** to change through His word and to give us the **power** to change through His Spirit.

C. God uses **circumstances to change us.**

1. *Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (NKJV)*
2. *Proverbs 20:30 “Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways.”*

II. OUR PART: MAKE **THREE CHOICES THAT WILL HELP CHANGE HAPPEN.**

A. Choose what you **think about.**

1. *Proverbs 4:23 “Be careful how you **think**. Your life is shaped by your thoughts.”*
2. Our thoughts don't just direct our life, they **are** our life.
3. *Ephesians 4:22-23 “...throw off your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. ²³ Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.”*
4. Change always begins with **new thinking**.
5. Our part is to willingly receive God’s Word into our heart and begin thinking like it thinks. When we do, we will **change**.

B. Choose to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

1. When we open up every part of our life to the Holy Spirit and invite Him to have free access to everything, to fill every part of our life, then, we have opened up ourselves to change.
2. *James 4:6, 10 "But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."*
3. Grace is God's way of empowering us with the desire and ability to do God's will.
4. When we are filled with ourselves, God resists us. When we humble ourselves to Him, when we surrender, He gives us the desire and the ability to change, to mature, and to develop. He gives us the desire and ability to get stronger and do better.

C. Respond correctly to circumstances.

1. *Romans 5:3-4 "We can be full of joy here and now, even in our trials and troubles. These very things [the trials and troubles] will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character."*
2. We cannot choose many of the things that are going to happen to us next week, next month or next year. But, we can choose how we're going to respond, whether it's going to make us or break us, whether it's going to be a stepping stone to maturity or a stumbling block to failure.

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