

Philippians 2:12-13 God at Work in You

One day a man went to the doctor because he was concerned about his Diminishing level of energy.

A)He told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do.

B)When the examination was complete, the man said to the doctor, "Now, Doc, I can take it. - Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me.

C)"Okay," the doctor replied, "In plain English, you're just lazy."

D)The man replied - "That's a relief- Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

Listen when it comes to spiritual growth as a Christian – one thing that you can't be is LAZY!

A)Spiritual growth takes effort – but the cool thing is that God meets our effort – with his power.

B)Spiritual growth formula: Divine operation + Human cooperation = Spiritual growth

C)Which is exactly what Paul reveals to us here in v.12-13 of Philippians Chapter 2

D)New or Visiting – middle of a movie – Catch u up

1)Philippians – Paul – jail – theme Joy – example New section – Our walks -

¹² 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.

Therefore: - Always a look back – Paul is looking back to the conversation that began in V.27 of Chapter 1

A)Let your conduct (your manner of life) be worthy of the Gospel – Weigh as much as the gospel

B)He explained to us what that would look like – and proceeded to give the Ultimate example – Let this mind be in you which was.... Christ Jesus

C)So that is the goal – that is the target – Important that we know what we are shooting at – 1)See - Even WHEN we miss the bullseye – and we all do – at least - we are still on the board

D)Now -The temptation for us would be to say – I can't do that - I can't be like Jesus

E)That is why what Paul says here is so important

1) Walking with God doesn't have to be as hard as we make it sometimes

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, (don't just be a man pleaser – work hard when the boss is around)- All Done that !!!-

➤ Do everything for the Lord -

Paul proceeds to give us A Spiritual growth formula – starts with Human Cooperation work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

A)Notice- Paul is not saying – Work for your salvation or work toward or even work at.

B)Salvation is a gift from God that comes by placing our faith in Jesus – HIS WORK – 1)FINISHED -

C)And Remember – Paul is not writing to unbelievers - Paul is writing to Christians –

1)He has already referred to them as Saints in Christ – (Set apart in Ch 1)

D)These people are already saved – they already have Salvation – like most of you here today-

So Paul is not saying Work for your salvation – Can't –

A)He is saying work out your salvation. –

B)Think of it this way – Salvation is like a muscle – work it ! Work it out – Develop it - let it grow

Last year, a 29-year-old weightlifter named Kenneth Leverich, world-class athlete, went to a very famous beach in Southern California, Venice Beach,

TO a particular place called Muscle Beach on Venice Boardwalk.

It is like an outdoor gym on the beach and weightlifters go there and show off their physique and show what they can do while people watch.

So this 29-year-old Kenneth Leverich goes to Muscle Beach, but he goes disguised as an 84-year-old man.

A) **A great disguise**- he had a Hollywood-class makeup artists put wrinkles on him, give him a gray receding hairline, gray hair, little wire-rimmed glasses, a cardigan sweater, khaki pants.

B) **And he shuffled out there in his tennis shoes.** Challenges a few of the weight lifters to a lifting competition. – YOUTUBE – NOT NOW

C) **He ended up smoking these guys - get this. He lifted 465 pounds doing a back squat. – Show the Pic**

1) The crowd was going wild – Phones out pictures – the weight lifters were just stunned!

Now why do I tell you that story? – Ken Leverich was born with the same muscles as every man in this room.

A) **But he has worked his out more than – all of us!**

B) **WE could say - He has gotten the most out of his muscles!**

1) **That is the idea – Paul is getting out here –**

C) When born again we have all been given – Salvation – Work it out! – Develop it

1) **With fear and trembling – Take spiritual growth seriously**

See we need to understand The word Salvation encompasses much more than being saved from our sins!

A) **We usually stop there – I am saved – not going to hell any more.**

B) **The word Salvation – encompasses so much more!**

1) **It includes all the blessings and benefits of being a child of God**

C) **It includes the resources that are suddenly at our disposal as Christians**

1) **It involves discovering and understanding – what it means to find our identity in Christ !**

D) That is what Paul means when he says – Work out your salvation!

1) **Full discover – what is now yours as a child of God and put it to use!**

See The Phrase work out is ONE WORD the Greek kater/gaz/oma

A) **The word was used to describe working a mine!**

B) **In 2016 for example the USA – produced 209 tons of gold worth 8.5 billion dollars**

1) **Alaska is the #1 state in the USA producing gold**

C) So Pretend a distant relative leaves you a gold mine in Alaska –

1) **There is gold in them there hills**

D) **There is gold there and you have it – you own it – You just have to go in and work it out!**

1) **That is the idea of this statement**

E) **The word was also used in mathematics to describe a math problem –**

1) **Work it out to completion –**

That is the problem for many Christians – they stop way short of completion – they stay infants – A) they Know the basics – but that is as far as it goes

They don't do the work!

B) **Heard of couch potato's – guy who never gets off the couch – and into the Gym**

1) **The Gym business is a lucrative business – \$27 billion dollar business in the United States**

C) **Most people never use their membership – or they quit going after 5 months –**

1) **Like the guy who said- when I get the urge to exercise – I lie down until the feeling passes. –**

2) **Couch potato**

D) In the church there are Pew potato's – People who sit in the pew or the chair – never grow

They never work out their faith –

A) **They are not doers of the word – they hear – but don't apply – consequently they don't grow.**

B)GK Chesterton: “The Christian faith has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried.”

C)But here is the thing that Paul wants us to understand – it doesn’t have to be difficult at all!

D)See often - We make following God – harder than it needs to be!

V.13 is Key - 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.

C)Together – these two verses give us – the right combination for growth – Divine energy plus + human effort = growth

1)Human cooperation + Divine operation = Maturity

From the moment – we get saved God is working in you!

A) “God who works” - Works = energizes

1) God energizes you!

B)Denise Bday - Pedco Bikes – Pedal assist – little electric motor – You pedal – motor kicks in

C)See the motor allows you to go further and faster on your own

1)We road 18 miles in 1 hour – so fun!!!

D)When it was over we were not even tired

E)Like the difference between swimming up stream vs down stream –

1)Down stream – the water is propelling you – but you have to get in the water.

Notice how God energizes us – Starts with the will. Both to will and to do

A)The will = Desire – Holy spirits work in us – My Book Longings

B)Holy Spirit is working: Desire – to draw near to God

1)Galatians 4:6 – Spend time with Him ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father

C)Now to grow spiritually – to work out my salvation I have to be intentional – get up get into the word

1)I have to respond to the urgings of God’s spirit to my heart

B)Eat physically you get FULL – eat spiritually – your hunger grows

1)God is working on your appetite – expanding it

C)I have to be intentional about seeing how God’s word applies to my life –

1)Praying – Lord how do I make this practical

When I move in that direction – God meets me with His power!

A)It is why we say that God’s commandments are God’s enablements

B)Jesus said to a man with a withered Hand – crippled and paralyzed – Stretch forth....

1)Can’t – Or he could believe – God’s commandments are God’s enablements

C)God’s word moves from being theory to reality

1)Promise learned to a promise – discovered

D)God is working in you both to will – and to do for his good pleasure!

1)He loves seeing his Children grow – He loves seeing them be who they are supposed to be in Him

Paul prayed for the church in Ephesus along these lines! - Turn to the left Ephesus 3

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, - REZ POWER!!!!

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Paul is praying that we would KNOW -
(understand and by experience the love of Christ)

Because He is self-existent,
His love has no beginning.
Because He is eternal,
His love has no end.
Because He is infinite,
His love has no limits.
Because He is holy,
His love is the quintessence of all spotless purity;
Because He is immense,
His love is incomprehensibly vast,
As bottomless, shoreless sea
AW. TOZER

Paul is telling us that his love is so BIG – spend our lives – considering it studying it experiencing it

A)Never scratch the surface or discovering the Vastness of his love.

B)Excites me – Especially because we tend to compare God’s love to our love –

1)Our love is moody, fickle, based on conditions and how we are treated –

C)God’s love for us – is so incredibly different from ours!

D)Now don’t miss the significance of V.19
19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The more I grow in my knowledge and experience of the Love of Christ

A)The more I am filled with all the fullness of God

B)In other words – My understanding of Christ love is directly connected to my spiritual growth!

Daniel 11:32 - the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

C) See When I begin to understand how fully I am loved by God –

1)I am ready to respond to the other way the Spirit of God – prompts the Will! To take steps of Faith

D)The Spirit prompts us to take steps of faith in our Walks and in Service

Notice how Paul finishes his prayer – V.20
20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think!

A)More than you can ever imagine is the idea

B)We make our plans – and we have our dreams

1)All of heaven is looking down upon you, shaking their heads, and saying “Is that all?! What a small thinker!

C)Reminds me of the time in Luke 5 – Peter and the boys are fishing all night – CATCH NOTHING

D)They are cleaning the nets – when Jesus comes up and starts teaching a crowd on the beach.

Peter can I use your boat – Sure!

A)Afterwards – Jesus says to Peter – lets go fishing

Lets take the boat and throw out the NETS

B)Peter at first – argues- Lord fished all night caught nothing – Wrong time – already cleaned up

1)All the reasons why this is a bad idea.

C)Do you ever do that with the Lord – when he is trying to prompt you to take a step of faith

There must have been a look on Jesus face because Peter proceeds to say- Nevertheless – at your word we can let down a net!

A)Jesus said – Nets – plural – Jesus is thinking Big catch – Jesus is thinking large

B)Jesus is thinking – exceedingly abundantly

C)Peter is thinking small – we will let down a Net

1)I wonder how often we do that?

D)Most of you know the story – the Net immediately fills up with more fish ever seen.

1)They have to call another boat in to help and the haul is so big it almost sinks the boats

E)Jesus is smiling – Should have thrown out 3-4 NETS – Bro!

1) **Exceedingly abundantly** above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us.**

You take steps of faith – God meets you with Power!

A)You are able to do more than you could ever imagine!

B)Like the people mover at an airport!

Ever been at an airport discovered your gate changed – never going to make in time

A)I got up started walking – thank God for those Moving side walks –

B)That moving side walk is able to take me further and faster – then I could go on my own.

C)God is moving – and His power is working – He is able to do MORE you can ever think or imagine

4 STEPS TO HOW TO HAVE A GREAT WORKOUT

#1 Respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings

A)If you have been lazy in ignoring the promptings of the spirit to get into the word

B)**Stops today!** – Respond – Allow God to expand your appetite.

C)Step out in faith – in obedience – something to change – turn away from

1)**His commandments are his enablements**

D)Step out in obedience – Area of Service – watch what he does!

1)Watch how He meets you with his Power

E)#1 Respond to the promptings of the HS

#2 Believe what the Bible says about you

- Believe who you are in Christ
- Believe the promises
- Believe God is for you with you
- Believe that God wants to do to great things with you/ in you/ thru you!
- Believe that his Resurrection power is available to you today

#3 Have good workout partners

A)Not doing this alone!

B)Denise or I work out or diet – so much easier when we do it together –

1) Running same direction

4 Run to win!

A)Don't just Run to Run

B)Any trainer will tell you that it is easier to work out when you have a goal –

C)**Working out just to work out** – Harder

D)Goal – Our Goal – closer to Jesus

1)Become more like Jesus

E)Bullseye – at least we are on the Board