



World Christian Fellowship

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Book of Philippians

Lesson 19

God Working in you

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; ¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

- 1. God, Person**
- 2. God's Power**

3. God's Presence

“For it is God who is at work in you.”

God in you. He is not working on you, He is not working for you, He is working in you.

Profound reality!

Acts 1:8,

When the Spirit of God took up residence, there was power. God lives in us in His Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17,

1 Corinthians 6:19,

In 1 Corinthians 3 he's speaking collectively; the church as a whole is the temple of God.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19 he's speaking individually!

Every Christian as an individual believer is the temple of God. He lives in us as individuals, so he lives in us collectively.

2 Corinthians 6:16,

God says I will never leave you or forsake you.

God says, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Paul says, "Be anxious for nothing,"

Psalms 139:3,

Romans 11:33-34,

✓ God is working independently.

- ✓ God is working in ways beyond our ability to understand,
- ✓ always consistently in us,
- ✓ caring for every need.
- ✓ His presence is infinite.
- ✓ His understanding is infinite.
- ✓ His wisdom is infinite.
- ✓ He lives in us.
- ✓ He is holy, so He always does what's right.
- ✓ He is loving, so He's always concerned with our best.
- ✓ He is gracious, so He always forgives.
- ✓ He is merciful, so He always holds back the fullness of judgment.
- ✓ He is just, so He's always fair.
- ✓ He's generous, so He always gives more than enough. He's there.
- ✓ God is not afar off. God is here, living in us.

God would not go to the great extent to justify us to then leave us alone.

- Having begun in the Spirit we are perfected in the Spirit.
- Having begun with the power of God, we are sustained with the power of God.

- Having been justified by the power of God, we are sanctified by the power of God.

He lives in us, that is why the process cannot be stopped.

Hebrews 12 says sometimes He has to discipline us, but that is for us to partake of His holiness.

His person is power and presence.

4. God's Purpose

He wants us to will what is right and to desire what is right. So, He works on our want, on our will, on our desires.

Psalm 110:3,

He is working to cause us to will to do what is right. See, all behaviour rises out of your will.

It's not the desire of passion.

It's not the desire of lust.

It's not the desire or the whimsical desire of emotion.

God wants to produce in us the proper intention, the proper inclination, and the proper desire for what is right.

Ezra 1:5, *Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.*

God began by stirring up their will, stirring up their desire. That is part of God's energizing work.

Ezra 7:27, *Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem,*

God works in you on your will, to produce the intent, the inclination, the will to do what He desires.

That is where He begins His internal work, working on your desires. Because, what you do and what I do is a product of what we desire.

Proverbs 21:1, *The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

He takes your heart and He turns it to cause you,

➤ to will what is right,

- to will what is good,
- to will what is His desire.

How does He do it?

There are two things God produces in you to move your will.

1. Holy discontent.

Simply means you are discontent with your holiness. There is a righteous discontent!

God makes you dislike your present spiritual weakness.

Romans 7:24,

That's holy discontent.

It's not being discontent with your circumstances in life or the conditions in which God has called you to live. It's being discontent with your sin. The convicting work of God in your life is to stir up a holy discontent about your sin.

Do you ever get to the place where you find tears in your eyes because you're so sick and tired of the same sin?

You're so sick and tired of fighting the battles on the same front?

That's a holy discontent that God is producing as He works on your will. He wants you to hate sin.

2. Holy Aspiration.

A longing for something better, purer, holy, righteous, true, godly, victory over sin and in totally becoming like Jesus Christ.

Sometimes when you are reading about a Bible character and your heart is filled with an aspiration to be like Paul, or Peter or John of course not like Judas!

Sometimes you are reading a missionary biography/ passionate Pastor/ Bible teacher and you feel so cheap and so shallow because the level of your dedication seems so low when compared with some of the great people God has used.

That becomes holy aspiration, holy discontent and holy aspiration.

God produces a hatred of sin and a love of righteousness.

Do they hate their sin and love righteousness?

Is there a holy discontent and a longing for something far purer than what they are experiencing?

That's the work of the indwelling God, the Holy Spirit moving on your will.

Perfect illustration look at Paul at Philippians chapter 3.

Philippians 3:12,

Already obtained spiritual perfection?

Already reached full knowledge of Christ?

Full expression of His power?

Complete fellowship in His sufferings?

Already conformed fully to His death?

Already having attained resurrection?

No.

Not as though I have attained or have already become perfect.

That is holy discontent.

I haven't become perfect.

Philippians 3:13,

That's holy discontent.

Philippians 3:10,

Holy aspiration in verse 12.

V12,

V13,

Holy discontent, I am not there, I haven't arrived.

Holy aspiration, I press on!

That's what God wants to work in your will so that you will that which is right by having a revolt toward what is wrong and an aspiration to what is right.

So, the purpose of God is to work on your will.

God works in you, energizing you both to will and then to work, or literally to do.

It's the word '*energe*' again.

He energizes you to be energetic. He works in you, so you will work, not just to will but to work, godly behaviour.

You start with a holy discontent, and that leads to holy aspiration, and that leads to holy resolve which means I will now do what is right, and that leads to holy work.

That's the process. Holy discontent, holy aspiration, holy resolve where the commitment is made produces holy work.

God is working on your will, and He's working on your work so that you will and do what is right.

What a great promise!

Remember that little sign, "Please be patient. God is not finished with me yet?"

Great truth in it. The truth is that God is at work in us.

Why is God doing this?

V 13, "For His good pleasure."

Do you understand that when you will and work what is right it pleases God?

Do you understand that there is so much of a relationship between you and God that you can bring Him pleasure?

God works in us to will and to work for His good pleasure. He wants to cause us to do what pleases Him.

He wants to cause us to do what satisfies Him. You could do could satisfy Him.

Luke 12:32,

He is a God of love.

He is a God of compassion.

He is a God of grace and mercy.

To give to one another so that there is pleasure. He wants your best because your best is what pleases Him most. He takes pleasure in you. He takes pleasure in me. And what He wants to produce in us is for His own satisfaction.

Isn't it a great thought to think that I can bring satisfaction to the heart of God?

You can't do that in your flesh. But God can work in you to will and to work what will be to His pleasure.

What good is a relationship if all you bring is pain?

If all you bring is grief. But what everybody wants out of a relationship is satisfaction and pleasure.

God says you can bring Me that. The Christian is working out with maximum effort and God is working in to accomplish His pleasure.

Of all the people on the face of this earth, we are so uniquely blessed because God works in us.

The distinctiveness of Christianity.

It takes all of us and all of Him.

A person who is being renewed by the Spirit of God is not in a state of passive surrender but is actively engaged in serving, working and putting on the new man.

The Christian life is described as a race, and as a warfare, as a fight. We are called on to be careful to apply ourselves to good deeds.

Titus 3:8,

James 4:7,

We are to constantly beat our bodies into subjection, lest we would be disqualified in spiritual service.

Hebrews 4:11,

We are to strive or agonize to enter into rest.

It takes everything you are as a Christian, everything you are. You are not just a passive piece of clay.

Ephesians 5:15,

- ✓ The Quietist says, “do nothing.”
- ✓ The Pietist says “do everything.”

- ✓ God says, “You do everything, and I will do everything, and we will effect sanctification.”

God is at work in you right now if you’re a Christian.

What is He working to cause you to will and to do?

What does He want you to will?

What does He want you to do?

What habit does He want you to change?

What relationship does He want you to make right?

What attitude does He want you to change?

What desire does He want you to ignore?

What desire does He want you to have?

What ministry does He want you to do?

What spiritual duty does He desire that you will?

What area does He want you to be faithful?

What wrong does He want you to make right?

God is working in you to cause you to will and to work what will please Him.