

Perfecting Joy: The Book of Philippians

The Joy of Being A Light

How To Be a Light in a Troubled World

Intro: Have you heard the voice of the Bridegroom today? He must increase; I must decrease. (*John 3*) This is the great theme of living for and serving Christ with joy.

A. The Goal of Every Believer *Phil 2:12-13*

1. I will live my salvation in all areas of my life :12

Work out my salvation: This is the process of 'sanctification.' Becoming more and more like Jesus every day—conformed to His image.

Obedience: Faithful submission to God's will.

Personal Responsibility: Living for Christ in private and in public, in the sacred and the secular.

Understanding the consequences of sin: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." *Psa 111:10*

2. I will be empowered by God :13
While the believer is 'working out' [Vs :12] God is 'working in.' [Vs :13]

God's Purpose: God supplies the energy for us to follow Him—to work out our salvation and to do His will.

What is that energy? It is the Holy Spirit:

John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

B. How Every Believer Should Reach the Goal *Phil 2:14-18*

1. I will remove these things :14
Grumbling—Complaining [murmuring] Gk gonguzo where we get the English word 'gong.' *1 Cor 10:10*
Disputing—A contrary spirit; arguing for the primary sake of winning the argument. *James 2:4*
2. I will become these :15
Blameless—That you may give no occasion for others to accuse you of having done wrong. *Luke 1:5-6*
Innocent—[Harmless] Without any mixed motive or deceit. *Matt 10:16*
3. I will reveal these :15-16
Light — How I live God's Word
Gk: phos—the essence or source of light! One who exposes the light of God's word. **Compare** *John 8:12* and *Matt 5:14* where both Jesus and believers are called the 'light' [phos] of the world.
Truth — What I teach of God's Word
Gk: logos—the very Word of God. *John 1:1*
To 'hold fast' means to hang on to; to pay attention to. *Heb 2:1*
4. It will result in this :17-18.
Joyful...Sacrifice — For Christ: [See *Num 28:7*] The OT drink offering was poured out over an animal sacrifice and the wine would vaporize. The steam symbolized the rising of the offering to God.
Joyful...Service — For Christ: This is a picture of priestly service. The Philippians were offering their lives sacrificially and faithfully in service to God.



Philippians 2:12-18

: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.

:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

:18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Key Thought

We are to work out what God has worked into us.