

Read Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18

NIV

¹²Therefore, 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, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”^[a] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

REFLECTION

Like snowflakes and fingerprints no two Christians are alike. God is working in our lives in varied ways and according to a unique blueprint. What are the areas of your life in which you see tangible growth and progress, and what are the areas in which you long for change?

SITUATION

Imprisoned because of his fearless faith, the apostle Paul sends this encouraging and challenging letter to the Christians in Philippi. His charge? Look at the example of Jesus and live humbly. Yield to God’s working in your lives. As we do these things, Christians “shine like stars in a dark world” (v.15)

Salvation (2:12) Deliverance from: guilt, our separation from God, a wicked nature, judgment, death, and all other evils. Wholeness, well-being.

REACTION

1. Because God is empowering us moment by moment, we should continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (see 2:12). What does it mean in practice for a Christian to work out her/his personal salvation? (Optional: see Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 12:1-2)
2. What exactly would working out “your own salvation with fear and trembling” look like in your life this week?

3. How much of a problem does the church body have with complaining and arguing?
4. What attributes of God do we fail to acknowledge when we grumble or argue? What should we do instead when we don't like what is happening?

APPLICATION

Propose some practical ways you can "hold fast the word of life" (see verse 16) both clinging to it, and offering it to others?