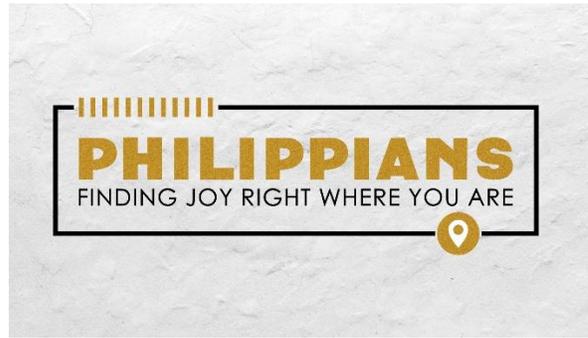


Title	Work Out Your Salvation
Text	Philippians 2:12-13
Date	7 February 2021



The questions below are designed to be used by OCC LIFEGroups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group.

The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at occweb.org/sermons.

OVERVIEW

After the Christ hymn of Philippians 2:5-11, Paul challenges the followers of Jesus to live a healthy spiritual life by “work(ing) out your salvation in fear and trembling... (as) God works in you.”

TEXT

NIV	The Message	Good News Translation
Therefore, 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, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.	What I’m getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you’ve done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I’m separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God’s energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.	So then, dear friends, as you always obeyed me when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey me now while I am away from you. Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation, because God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Introduction – connect with your group

Eric Liddell, the Scottish sprinter, famously once said, “When I run I feel God’s pleasure.”

- How would you complete that same statement? When I _____ I feel God’s pleasure.
- Talk about a recent time when you believe God took pleasure in your life.

Looking at the Text

- Read Philippians 2:12-13
- Are there words, phrases or ideas that pastor Mike used that you didn’t understand?
- What is one thing that stuck out to you from the message?

NOTE all the plurals: *Therefore, 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, for it is God who works in **you** to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

In verse 12 some translations say “*your own salvation*” That word “*own*” is not there in the Greek.

- In what way does the insertion of the word “*own*” distort the meaning of the text?
- “*Work out your salvation*” isn’t meant to contrast the work that the Philippians (and we) do with God’s work. How is what we do and what God does connected?
- Spiritual growth is not accidental but intentional. How does spiritual maturity result from human cooperation with what has done and is doing? What are some examples of this in your life?
- Pastor Mike said that the Christian is more like Spiderman than Batman – agree/disagree? Why or why not?
- Paul is telling the Philippians that they must grow into maturity and take responsibility for themselves. Paul isn’t there, (and for all either of them know, he may never be there again). He wants them to work out for themselves (on their own without him, but not without God or without each other) what this business of being saved means in practice and in practicality. He stresses that the work of salvation is God’s work from start to finish.
- Jesus’ example should inspire us to live with integrity – following Him even when no one but God is looking. In what ways have you let Jesus into every part of your life?
- **Hebrews 12:1-2.** What does it mean that Jesus is the “*author and finisher of our faith.*” What happens when we fail to keep our eyes on Him?

When Paul uses the phrase “*fear and trembling,*” (v12), he means with “utter seriousness.”

- What would it mean for you to work out the practical implications of your salvation in this way?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER

Pray that your group will be a caring community that humbly puts the needs of others before your own as you work out your salvation with fear in trembling, as God works in you.

THIS WEEK

Read the letter/book of Philippians – it’s only 4 chapters.

- **Connect Up:** Read **2 Peter 1:2-8.**
What does it mean to be “participate in the divine nature”?
How does the sequence of actions Peter described relate to working out your salvation?
What does it mean to add virtue to your faith, and knowledge to virtue, and so on?
- **Connect In:** Read **2 Corinthians 10:12.**
What was Paul warning Christians about?
How does comparing yourself with others boost your ego or rob you of joy?
Why is it important to keep your eyes on Jesus as an example (and on others who are following Him)?
- **Connect Out:** Read **Psalms 37:1-9.**
How do these verses reflect what it means to work out your salvation with fear and trembling in the world around you—with your family (both immediate and extended), with OCCers, at work, and in our city?