

WORK IT OUT

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Philippians 2:12-18

The Apostle Paul gave us an outline of Christian Living to follow. He presented Jesus Christ as our good example. The problem of a good example is that it can make us feel as though we aren't able to live up to it. How can we live up to Jesus Christ? He was the quintessential man. He was the perfect human. It seems impossible. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. **Romans 7:15-17** We are now free to live our lives the way we want to. We are privileged to live for God. There is no way to make ourselves acceptable and get our lives together before coming to Him. **John 3:16** He gave us an invitation to come to Him. We were saved by faith through His grace. God initiated our salvation. He came looking for us in Christ Jesus and did not give up until He got us. Who can resist God's forgiveness and a chance to get it right? Who can resist a God that can love you better than you can love yourself? We were on our way to Hell and God turned us around. He set you apart for His exclusive use in this world.

Paul gave us Jesus Christ as a good example and told us to work out our faith. God has given us everything we need in this world to excel. If someone speaks against your ability to do something, understand that he/she doesn't know what God has deposited in you. Take hold of your promises and walk in your destiny. Move every negative obstacle out of your way. It is tough in the world. People are always telling you what you can't do. **Philippians 4:13** Even with all this potential and the possibilities we have, we still have issues. Every one of us has behaviors motivated by attitude. Activities in our lives, problems, and issues are holding us back. It is not that you don't want to push ahead and jump for joy. It is that you have something tying you down; and it won't let you operate in the victory you already have. Work out that problem that is holding you down. Work it out through your salvation. You can't help someone else get free if you are being held down by your issues.

Paul gives us examples of characteristics of Jesus Christ that we must emulate. He gives us instructions in addition to being humble to work out God's good purpose in our lives. He tells us to do everything without complaining. Everything means the good and the bad. In the text, the tense of the verb, complain, is present tense. That means it should be a continuous action of refraining from complaining. It doesn't mean to take a break just to complain. God rescued Israel from 40 years of bondage. They grumbled and complained. Some folks are never satisfied. In this economy, you should be grateful you have a job, car, house, and/or any money at all. We live in an age of entitlement where we think God owes us something. God doesn't owe you anything. If it weren't for the Lord who was on your side, where you would be? However, we still argue and complain. You can't get out of your situation. God has you there to work something out. The issue is trust and patience. You don't want to wait for God to work it out. You want what you want, and you want it now when you just need to "chill." You mature in

God when you can learn how to live in plenty and in want. Trust God and allow Him to be the completeness in your life.

Blameless means above reproach. **1 Peter 2:12** Sin taints and dilutes us. It takes our strength and witness. We live in a world of perverse stipulations. It is dark in our world. We have all this craziness going on. Where is the purity? We have to give the world an example of how to live in an uptight world. You must follow the example of Jesus, the Light of the world.

Work it out. We are to do this with fear and trembling. Recognize that God's power is infinite. We can't do it without God's help. **Galatians 2:20** God lives in us by His Spirit. God works in while we work out. The Holy Spirit lives in us and gives us power. **Ephesians 1:19-20** That power is like the working of His mighty strength. It is efficacious. The word, strength, is strength that overpowers and prevails over resistance and opposition. **Romans 8:37** You are more than a conqueror. The Holy Ghost is in you. There should be a warfare going on when you decide to operate in the flesh.

What has God given us to release the power? It is by His Word. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** The same Word that God spoke to bring the universe into being and everything in it can bring about divine power in you. We have a responsibility of appreciating the Word and not playing it cheap. The Word is infallible. It is God speaking to His people with power. We must receive it and allow the Holy Spirit to write it across our hearts. **Jeremiah 31:33** The Word will work if you work it. You must also believe it. **Luke 1:39** God's Word has power of accomplishment. The power is in the Word of God and our faith in it. When you receive, believe, and operate in that faith, nothing God says will lack power in your life. Confess the Word of God and walk in it. When you add prayer to it, you have the keys to the Kingdom and your faith will unlock the door. You have to get in the Word.

We are also a generation that wants God to do everything for us. Get me out this mess Jesus. Get yourself out this mess! **Ephesians 3:20** He will do it through His power in you. You got it inside of you and all you have to do is have more confidence in it. God is as tired of you struggling with your situation as you are. As God works in you, what are you going to do to work it out? Whatever is plaguing you is controlling you. God wants you to gain control. Work it out.

Peace

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