

Growing to Maturity

Philippians V

Philippians 2:12-13 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, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. (NIV 84)

What does “work out your salvation” mean?

It doesn’t mean “work out” as in “_____.”

It doesn’t mean to “work _____ your salvation.”

- It’s not _____ that way.
- He is writing to people who are already _____.
- We are not _____ by _____ for our salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. NIV

Romans 4:1-8 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? ²If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about — but not before God. ³What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

⁸Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” NIV

Galatians 3:1-3 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ²I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? NIV

- It doesn’t fit the _____ well.

What it does mean:

Carry out your salvation to its ultimate _____—like we “work out”

a _____.

Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. NIV84

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. NIV84

What does “with fear and trembling” mean?

What is “to will and to act...”?

God is at work in you...

- To _____ according to His good purpose.
- To _____ according to His good purpose.

Basic interpretation: Paul is saying, I implore you to live grow as Christian. Live it out. Take this seriously. God is at work in you to empower you to choose that and to live that.

We need to have a _____ that growth is healthy, normal, and _____.

Hebrews 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. NIV

We need to be _____ to _____.

We need to see our role in God’s heart for the _____.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. NIV84