



## Transcendent Joy: Learning How to Rejoice No Matter What

Message #10: **Who Does What in our Faith** (Philippians 2:12-13) – February 5, 2023 - Pastor Jeff

- Paul used the incarnational ministry of Jesus Christ (God putting on human flesh) as a powerful incentive for pursuing selfless living and the unity of the church (2:5-11). Now, in chapter two, verses 12 and 13, he reveals how our perfect example, the Lord Jesus Christ, also gave us the perfect power to live out that kind of life.
- We learn a great truth that animates our Christian life. What God expects, He will always empower. God gives us the blessing of His divine energy and it enables us to carry out the daily expression of our faith.
- It is important to note that Paul's instruction (through verse 18) is written with plurals (not singulars) as he appeals to the church (as a whole) to take responsibility together for living out the practical implications of what God is working into their lives in relationships with one another.
- We learn about the divine side and human side of living the Christian life in community together.

### ① You are responsible for the outworking of your faith (2:12)

- This is the human responsibility side of our God-given, God-empower faith. We work out what God has worked in.
  - While salvation is monergistic (God alone elects, calls, convicts, regenerates, justifies, adopts, reconciles, etc. and even supplies the faith and repentance to respond), the daily living out of that salvation is synergistic in that we actively (by trust and obedience) cooperate with God in living out that faith in daily life (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Pet. 1:3-7; 1 Cor. 15:10-11)
  - The word for “*work out*” speaks of bringing something to fulfillment or to reach a goal. Living out the faith takes all of God and all of us, but it's never a “*let go and let God*” kind of living, but it is taking God's riches in Christ and mining out what is already mine.
- You work out your faith for the right reason (“*so then*”). Paul wants us to look back at the amazing example of our Lord (in His incarnation – 2:5-11) who motivates humility, service and obedience for the good of others (1 Pet. 2:21; 1 John 2:6)
- You work out your faith with the right responsiveness (“*just as you have always obeyed...*”). The gospel demands an obedient response (Acts 16:31; Rom. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:1-2; 2 Thess. 1:8) and our obedience demands maximum effort (1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:12b; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Cor. 15:58)
- You work out your faith with the right respect (“*with fear and trembling*”). These two synonyms remind us of our need to have a healthy respect and reverence for God (you don't want to offend or dishonor Him) and for sin (you don't want to be defiled, deceived or deadened by it – James 1:14-15)

### ② God is responsible for the inworking of your faith (2:13)

- This is the divine side of our Christian life, what God works into our life. The conjunction “*for*” highlights the reason why we can “*work out our salvation*”.

- o *“God”* Himself is working to accomplish our salvation (John 15:4-5; Eph. 1:11; 1 Cor. 2:6)
  - o *“who is at work”*. The word *“work”* is about energizing or production of power so that our faith can be spiritually lived out. Because of the form this verb (*“work”*), it actually becomes another name for God, The Great Energizer, the One who is effectively at work in us.
  - o *“in you”*. Again, the plural form reminds us that God is actively working in His church as a community of energized believers (1 Cor. 3:6), so we are not left to fend for ourselves.
- God energizes our desire (*“both to will”*). The word *“will”* describes someone who wants strongly and this is what God stirs up (our desires) to do what He wills and commands. He creates a holy discontent with our sin (Phil. 3:12a, 13a) and a holy desire for righteousness (Phil. 3:12b, 13b).
  - God energizes our drive (*“and to work for His good pleasure”*). The word *“work”* is where we get our word energy, so God energizes us with the drive to pursue and accomplish His will (Col. 1:28-29; Eph. 3:20; 1 Thess. 2:13; Col. 1:11)
  - What is the purpose of all this energizing? It is *“for His good pleasure”*. God is satisfied when He sees His energizing work being actively utilized in transforming His body into a selfless, serving and unified community of faith.