

God at Work in You Pt.3
Philippians 2:13

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Introduction:

Work that Doesn't Work

It has been said that there are only 2 religions in the World. Only 2.

The Religion of Human Achievement

The Religion of Divine Accomplishment

Human Achievement = Every False religion that attempts to reach God thru human effort

Righteous works, legalism, commandment keepers

Divine Accomplishment= God accomplishes it all, Does all the work, secures the way and Transforms the Soul

The Bible is very Clear that You and I have absolutely nothing to do with our Salvation

God Does the Work and you and I are Sinners unable to meet the standards of a Holy God.

To understand this and to make it abundantly clear before we leave this great passage before us, let me Give you the Work that doesn't work

I. We are Saturated Sinners

A. Romans 3:10-12

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ *There is none who understands;*

There is none who seeks after God.

¹² *They have all turned aside;*

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one.”

B. Roman 3:19

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

C. Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

II. We are Simple Slaves

A. Romans 6:6,20

⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

B. Eph. 2:2-3

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world,

according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

III. We are Spiritually Stiff (dead)

A. Eph 2:1-3

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

B. John 8:43,47

Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

⁴⁷ He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

C. John 6:44,65

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day

⁶⁵ And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

IV. We are Specifically Spent

A. Our Faith Eph.2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

B. Repentance 2 Tim 2:25

²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

C. Confession I Cor 12:3

³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Lesson:

God says, "**Without Me you can do nothing-- absolutely nothing.**" It is God who has to do it all. In **John 15:4** Jesus said, "**If you try to produce something, you must be connected to the vine because if you don't abide in the vine you have no life source to produce fruit, without Me you can do nothing.**" In 1 Corinthians chapter 12 as the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit outlines the matters of spiritual gifts and ministries, in verse 6 he says, "**There are varieties of effects but the same God who works all things in all persons.**" Whatever is being produced in your life to His glory, He is producing. He is at work in you...in me, in all His children. That's why **2 Corinthians 3:5** says, "We are not adequate in ourselves but our adequacy is from God. He is at work in us."

I. The Person=God

Literally the Greek says, "God is the one at work." No one else but God. The emphasis is on God. The absolutely unbelievable truth that the one who is at work in us is God, the very God who created the universe. He is that personal, that intimate, that concerned that He literally works in us. We are not dependent on our human resources, although God has given us much in terms of creation and much in terms of redeemed creation to work with. We are still not dependent on our human resources.

Pastors and Elders help

the body of Christ helps

Spiritual Gifts Helps

The Word helps

But Ultimately GOD is the one that does the work

God who loves us with an everlasting love, God who holds toward us an eternal kindness, God who keeps us with an

everlasting covenant based on everlasting promises, God whose gifts and callings are without repentance, God who says that whom He justifies He glorifies, God who sees us through to the end, God who unendingly, unswervingly commits Himself to us to supply all our needs in Christ Jesus, that God is the one in us.

D.H. Griffith Thomas. He says this, "God is the answer to every question of the mind, to every trembling fear of the heart, to every weakness of appetite and to every strong hurricane of temptation. The soul, the lonely individual soul not knowing whence it has come, knowing almost as little where it's going, confronting the question of weakness and sin and death and eternity and the deep deep problems of moral evil can only answer every complaint by the one all sufficient, all comprehending mono syllable God. This is our anchor. God made us. God knew our constitution. God knew our environment. God knew our temptation, the temptations that would assail us and yet God redeemed us to Himself and made us His own by the blood of Christ. Now, if God be a being of perfect benevolence, He can not have done so much without assuming to Himself the responsibility of realizing the object of the tears, longings and prayers which He has put by His own hand within our nature. And therefore, we must throw back on Him the responsibility of making us blameless, harmless and unrebukable before Him,"

II. The Power =at work

God who is at work, energen, we get the word energy from it in the Greek. It means to put out power or to work effectively. To put it simply, it's the word "the energizer."

Eph 3: 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," Paul says, Philippians chapter 4.

2 Chronicles 29:12"

The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the Lord. Isn't that interesting? Isn't that a fascinating statement? The king and the princes were commanding the people to return to God because it was the word of the Lord to them. God says command the people to return to Me, and then verse 12 says then God gave them a heart to do it. Marvelous, isn't it? God therefore energizes the fulfillment of His own command, what a perfect model. God moves powerfully to produce what He demands. That is the incredible mystery of Christian living, that God is effecting in the believer what He is commanding to the believer.

You say, "How do you understand that?" I don't understand it except that it's simply stated. I cannot understand it. I cannot make a dividing line between what is God and what is me and how much God can do if I cooperate and how much He can't do if I don't. It is mystery. But it is clear in Scripture that whatever is to be done in my life in response to God's command, He must energize. He is strong. He is powerful. And His power works to effect what He commands. 29:12

III. The Place=in you

Acts 1:8

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

I Cor 3:16

"If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy and that is what you are." You're the temple of God,

I Cor 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

IV. The Purpose= to will and do

Now what does this mean? Well, that phrase "both to will and to work" is best noted as a reference to us, rather than to God. He is working in you to cause you to will and to work for His good pleasure. In other words, there are two things God wants to energize in us: our will and our work. Desire and deed, those are very vital, very basic.

First of all, let's talk about that idea of working in us to will. He wants us to will what is right, to want what is right, to desire what is right so He works on our want, on our will, on our desires. You remember **Psalm 110:3** which

says we are made willing in the day of His power. When His power moves in us it makes us willing. He is working to cause us to will to do what is right. See, all behavior rises out of your will, it all rises out of your desire, your longing, your wants, your intent. In fact, that verb "to will" is *thelo*, it is the verb that means intent or inclination.

Prov 3:5-6

- 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
- 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

Prov 21:1

1 The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Psm 37:4

Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

The Way God does this

1. produces a holy discontent
- 2 produces a holy aspiration

V. The Pleasure=of His Pleasure

Do you understand that when you will and work what is right it pleases God? Do you understand that there is so much of a relationship between you and God that you can, in a sense, bring Him pleasure? The word eudokia means satisfaction. God works in us to will and to work for His good pleasure. He wants to cause us to do what pleases Him. That's what it means. He wants to cause us to do what satisfies Him. The underlying thing that strikes me is that anything that I could do could satisfy Him. Isn't He ultimately and infinitely and perfectly satisfied already? There's some way in which He takes pleasure in me willing and working on His behalf.

Luke 12:32? Jesus looked at that motley bunch of weak-faith disciples and said, **"It's your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."** Isn't that an astounding statement?

T.C. Hammond could summarize it well in this brief statement. "While the New Testament emphasizes most emphatically that the work of grace is of God and not of our inherent capacity, and so far lend support to the Quietist position, it is equally emphatic on the fact that God works in us or with us and thus does justice to the truth resident in Pietism. By combining both ideas, it corrects the errors resident in both."

You remember where we started all this? The Quietist says "do nothing." The Pietist says "do everything." God says, "You do everything and I'll do everything and we'll effect sanctification."

As we close, let me ask you a question, real personal one, only you can answer. God is at work in you right now if you're a Christian. What is He working to cause you to will and to do? Have you thought about it? What does He want you to will? What does He want you to do? What habit does He want you to change? What relationship does He want you to make right? What relationship does He want you to break? What relationship does He want you to make? What attitude does He want you to change? What desire does He want you to ignore? What desire does He want you to have? What ministry does He want you to do? What spiritual duty does He

desire that you will? And what area does He want you to be faithful? What wrong does He want you to make right? He's working in you to cause you to will and to work what will please Him. Do you know what it is that He wants you to will and to work?