



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

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Philippians: The Leverage Of Joy #8
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Last week we looked at the life of Jesus and Joy Leverage #7—Living a Selfless Life.

- Jesus is our example.
- But how do we live it?
- How can we live the selfless life?
- How can we possibly achieve what Jesus achieved?
- Actually the dilemma is not that hard to grasp.

There is a Divine Pattern...and Divine Power...therefore

Philippians 2:12-18

Joy Leverage #8: Keep Working Out

- The Christian life is a “work out.” Not unlike the physical work out you have to do every day to stay in shape, the Christian walk is a spiritual work out.
- The Spirit filled life is about working out our salvation with fear and trembling, not working for our salvation, not working at our salvation, or work toward your salvation, but since you have it, working it out!
- This is not a question of dependence on works but rather the progression in the faith.
 - We are saved by Christ alone, by faith alone, through grace alone.
 - Martin Luther: “We are saved by faith alone but not faith that is alone.”
 - Work out has the meaning of “working to full completion” such as working out a mathematical equation.
 - In Paul’s time it had the idea of “working a mine” so as to get the greatest harvest possible.
 - It has the meaning of reaching your full potential in Christ.

- For example, how many of you would say you have not reached your full potential?
- Two kinds of “works.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

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 (human effort to earn our salvation), lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (God’s saving works within us), which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- The challenge is the progress of our faith through two things:
 1. My energy, and
 2. God’s energy flowing through.
- Reminds us of another passage in **Philippians: 4:13** ***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”***
 1. “I can do all things”
 2. “through Christ who strengthens me.”

Philippians 2:12-13

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.

1. So, we “work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.”
 - It really takes effort.
 - It is very hard at times.
 - The temptations are tough.
 - “I can do all things.”
 - It is you that must believe and fight for the progression.
 - My energy.

- Grappling questions with God’s will, issues of holiness, questions about our kids, dating relationships, etc.
- You have to work out your own salvation—your Christian discipleship, your Christian life.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2. “for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

- God is not going to work against your will—it is your will engaged with the Spirit.
- It’s your surrender of your will, then God can act.
- The word, “works in you” is translated God’s energy flowing through us.
- **Philippians 4:13** ***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”***
- It is God working in us.
- The “work out” is learning the synergy of letting the Holy Spirit flow through you!
- For example, when you get saved, you do not just change overnight: the same temptations, doubts and misconceptions are in your mind. But it is now learning to depend on the Holy Spirit, spend time in His Word.

Hebrew 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Now Paul describes How to Work Out: Set some Goals

Philippians 2:14-15

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

1) First notice that there is a huge difference between the life of the disciple and the life of unbeliever—one complains and disputes and the other shines the light

- Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”
- We are not to retreat from the world but rather engage the world with the love and grace of God.
- God must work in us before He can work through us.
 - This is the way of God in the men and women He works through: Moses, David and the Apostles.
 - He worked in them, in the intimacy of their hearts before He mightily used them.
 - God is more interested in the workman than the work.
 - Too many do the ministry because of outer pressure when God wants the ministry to flow from inner power.
 - The same power that rose Jesus from the grave courses through your veins with His energy!

Philippians 2:16

holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

2) The Word of God—hold it fast, hold it tightly. Eat God’s Word!

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

- God's divine energy is best released in our lives through His Word.
- The same Word that spoke the universe into being, that created the heavens and earth, can be release creative power into your life.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- The angel's promise to Mary in Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing shall be impossible" is translated in the ASV "For no word from God shall be void of power."
- We see that God's Word has power to accomplish impossible things in our life, but it must be matched with faith and faith comes from the Word.
- ***"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."***
 - Jesus commanded the cripple to walk and stretched out His hand and command gave the cripple power to walk.
 - Jesus commanded Peter to get out of the boat and walk on the water, and the command in synergy with Peter's faith caused him to walk on water.
 - It is faith in God's promises that releases God's power!

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Work Out with God's Word

- Eat the Word!
- Feast on the Word!

Ezekiel 3:1-3

And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

³ Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

- Eat it and digest it. The Word of God must metabolize into your spiritual system for health, joy and life.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.