

Philippians: Week 6 Study Questions

Philippians 2:12-18

As believers, we are responsible for working out and cultivating the new life that has been placed inside of us. Even though we have done nothing to earn the gift of salvation we have been given, we are called to act responsively to the work that God is doing within us.

Application

1. To be filled with awe and reverence over the work that God has done in us, we need to take inventory and remember. How would you describe the work that He has done for you? What does this say about God, and how does that motivate you to work out your salvation?
2. Paul gives three different areas of direction: do everything without complaining or arguing, live clean and innocent lives, and hold firmly to your faith. Which of these is most difficult for you? Where do you feel most tempted to rebel and why?
3. Matt explained that God gives all believers desires and power to respond to Him. How often are you gaining new desires and new power from the Holy Spirit? When was the last time you sensed new desire and chased it down? If you haven't experience new desire or power recently, which of these questions most addresses your heart: Is my salvation real? Have I been spiritually lazy? Have I hardened my heart?
4. How is your life shining light in the darkness? How can you live so that your life looks different from the rest of the world and shows the results of your salvation?

Key Points

- Two truths stand out: we are to work hard and God works in us. These truths seem in conflict with each other but in reality are both true at the same time and a mysterious component to our spiritual growth.
- When we complain and argue, we are saying that we are not content for someone else to be in charge and making decisions for us; we feel entitled to a better situation.
- The need to be right is a deep form of insecurity where we feel the need to prove ourselves. If we have truly trusted in Christ, we have already been validated in the deepest way, and we are freed from the need to be right.
- We are instructed to live clean and innocent lives in a way that reflects who God is. As humans, oftentimes the calling to live a clean and innocent life feels like restriction rather than liberation. However ultimately, what you think is “liberating” is truly enslaving. There is no safe time or place to sin.
- The instruction to hold firmly to our faith reminds us that the mark of the believer is that we do not quit. We do not give up even in suffering.
- We have the responsibility to cultivate on the outside the new life that God has placed deep inside of us.
- Part of the redemptive plan involves suffering; suffering for believers is a validator that we are all in this together—we are on the same team.