

## **Work Out Your Own Salvation with Fear and Trembling.**

'Again, I would like to tackle this issue of **salvation**. As you have heard me say countless times, the word salvation is an all inclusive action word that means so much more than we believe we know.

We run into the comment "once saved always saved" and I believe I know what they are referring to.

According to the Strong's concordance it is a verb that has several meanings. For the most part, the Church refers to the word with the understanding of our position with the Lord Jesus.

A better word to explain that would be the word **justification**. Justification refers to our positional righteousness before the Lord. By faith in His finished work and our belief in that fact gives us standing with Him. Our standing before Him then is as spotless as He is. You and I cannot improve on this perfection. You believed in the record concerning His Son and were declared "righteous" before the great judge in the heavens.

No longer does our Heavenly Father see us as we were, for our new identity is now 'In Christ', and this is how we are now standing.

Our lawyer (advocate- Jesus) is now before the throne of God telling God the Father (and also Satan who is known as the accuser of the brethren) that every believer is now cleaned by the blood of the lamb, and in proper standing before Him.

You and I cannot improve on perfection. There is nothing we have done nor can do to change this new fact. His Word claims that we are now as righteous as we will ever be. Jesus has sealed the deal in our lives by giving each of us the "guarantee of the purchased possession" His Holy Spirit. God Himself now lives inside each and every believer.

What work did you do to receive this gift? Nothing beloved. In fact if you and I set about to work for something freely given to us by the Lord Jesus, it cheapens the gift and brings a reproach on the giver of the gift, The Lord Jesus.

Well then, what can Paul mean when He tells us to "work out our own salvation, with fear and trembling"?

When we see the meaning of the word in Strong's we note that the word means healing, safety, deliverance, rescue, welfare, health and even victory

Then the command to "work out" means to continue to bring something to completion or fruition.

This work is best described as the sanctifying process that every believer goes through. Paul describes himself as straining" and "pressing on" toward the goal of being like Christ.

Paul says that it is God working within you as you are pressing toward the prize of maturity in Christ. Do all things without complaining and disputing. That you may become blameless and harmless and without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

You are able to do this because of the life of God within you.

There is not strife here beloved, just belief. Believing that He is able to perform that which He has begun in your life, and rest in that fact.

Speaking practical now, what do you do with past hurts? How do you get over the wrongs that have happened to you in the past? If you have never known undeserved or unearned love from someone, how do you get over that hump?

When these past hurts overwhelm you, what do you do about them? Is there anything that you can do?

John Wimber used to say to the Lord –“Lord let me grow up before I grow old”

I have some very good news for you today.

Because you are an overcomer, you can overcome these feelings that seem to dominate your thought patterns.

You can get to the other side of these feelings.

Unfortunately for you, it is not going to be through the changed behavior of someone else. We tend to believe that if our situations just improve, I am going to be O.K.

Beloved, if I am ever going to get over feeling sorry for myself, it has to come through my relationship with the Lord Jesus. Folks around you can never get you over the hill. They cannot fill up that “selfish” cup that you are offering. The cup has no bottom. No one can put enough in to overcome the problem of our being self-centered. Being self-centered is “of the flesh”, and nothing can satisfy the flesh.

It has an insatiable appetite

It demands the question “what about me” How about my feelings, how about the wrongs I have suffered”

Do you and I have control over what we put in our mouths to eat?

Do you and I have any control over what my “feelings” are?

Are we captivated over never seeing the cup ½ full, but always seeing it ½ empty?

Am I trying to receive my acceptance in the eyes of another?

Does my self-worth depend upon your approval?

When I wake up tomorrow morning, do I have any control over my life today?

Is someone else, or something else always going to control my moods?

Can I control them? Is it within my power to get to the other side of some of them?

Beloved, the answer is in “working out your own salvation with fear and trembling” Believe it or not, this is within your control. You can do this thing. Why” because of the power that rests within you.

The answer is the next verse **Phil 2:13** – “for it is God that works **within you** both to **will** and to **do** of His good pleasure.”

It is His good pleasure that your mind be free of *negative feelings*. He exhorts each of us to leave the past behind. It is His good pleasure for you to be *at rest and not live to seek others approval*.

Why else would He tell us in **Philippians 4:8** “finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is anything praiseworthy – Meditate on these things”.

Everything necessary for our full salvation walk is within each of us. Oh we may encounter some fear as we make a choice to walk another way. We may even tremble at the thought of not seeing myself in the center of my universe. It may be a scary path for me to take to stop feeling sorry for myself, but—

I can do all things through Christ who gives me the necessary strength.

Today, I choose to believe Him and allow Him to direct my path. I can do this thing.

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