



# Work Your “But” Off!

*BECOMING USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE IN THE KINGDOM  
OF GOD!*

# Work It Out!

- **Philippians 2:12**

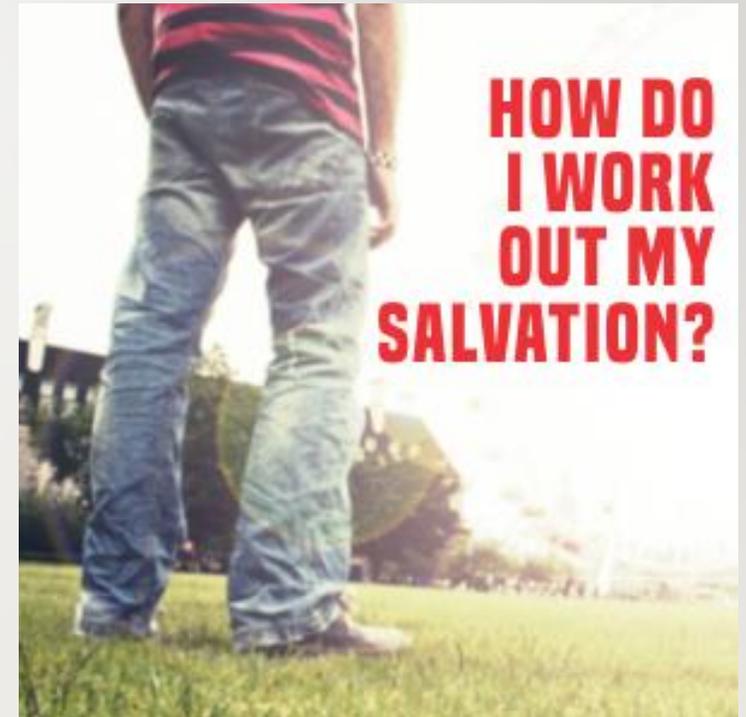
<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling,

# Work It Out!

The Bible here speaks of “our salvation” as something that needs to be “worked out”.

*So work with fear and trembling to discover what it really means to be saved. (CEV)*

But wait, isn't salvation a finished work?



# The Three Tenses of Salvation

According to the Bible...

- We **have been** saved! (past tense)
- We **are being** saved! (present tense)
- We **will be** saved! (future tense)



# We Have Been Saved!

## ➤ Ephesians 2:4-6

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved**— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

# We Have Been Saved!

The moment you placed your trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you became a child of God! You are saved! (1 John 3:1)



# We Will Be Saved!

## ➤ Romans 5:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more **shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.** <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, **shall we be saved by his life.**

# We Will Be Saved!

One day, we will see Jesus and  
we will be like him! (1 John 3:1)  
We will be saved!



# We Are Being Saved!



We were saved!	We are being saved!	We will be saved!
Past	Present	Future
Justification (Jesus)	Sanctification (Holy Spirit)	Glorification (the Father)
Saved from PENALTY of sin	Saved from POWER of sin	Saved from PRESENCE of sin

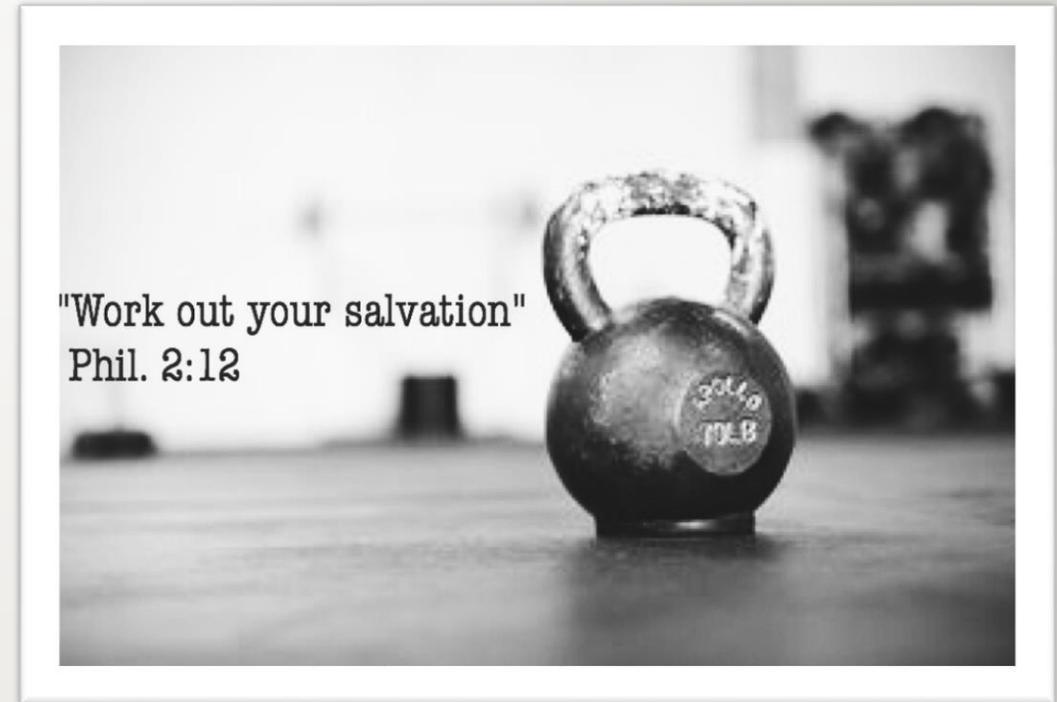
# We Are Being Saved!

## ➤ 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

<sup>9</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which **you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

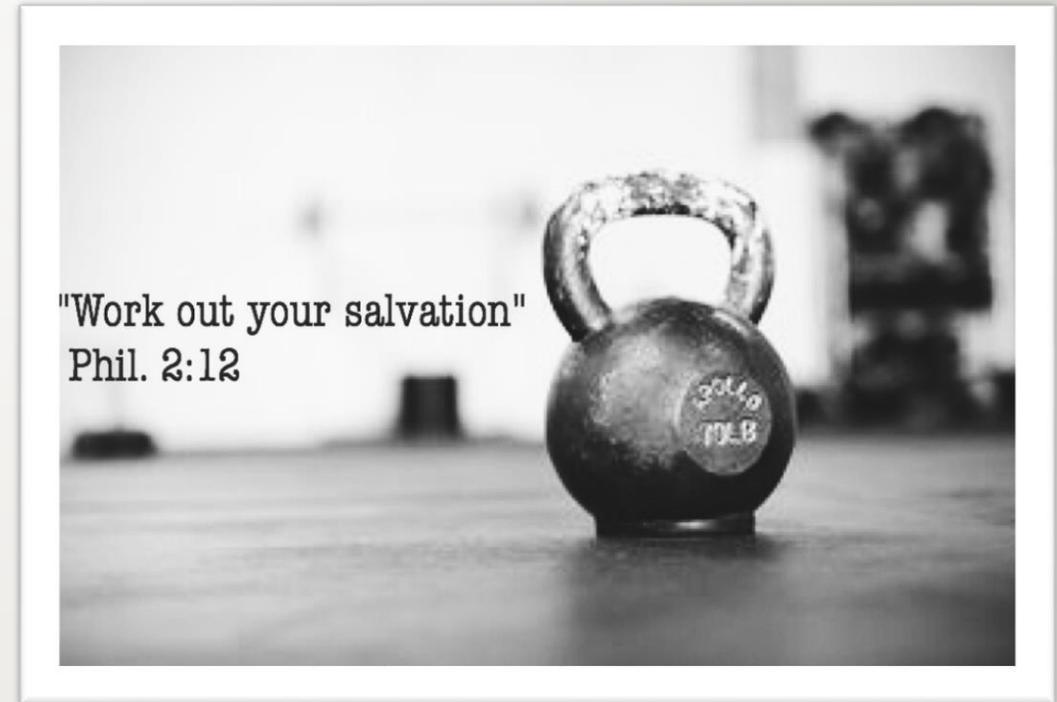
# We Are Being Saved!

“Being saved” is working out our salvation! It is working out the *kinks* of being saved—discovering and applying the implications of being a child of God... And it is **work!**



# We Are Being Saved!

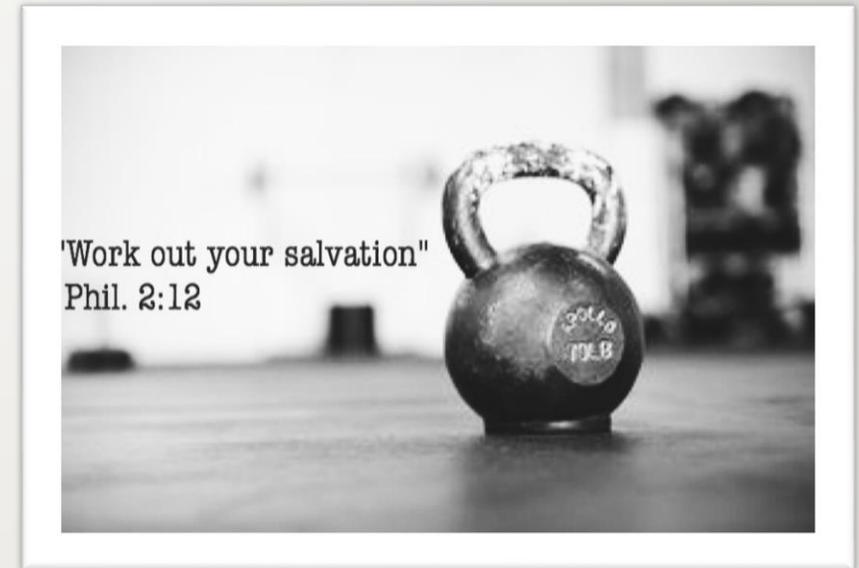
“Being saved” is working out our salvation! It is working out the *kinks* of being saved—discovering and applying the implications of being a child of God... And it is **work!**



# Work Out Your Salvation!

Thomas Edison once said, “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work!”

The same can be said about spiritual maturity and fruitfulness!

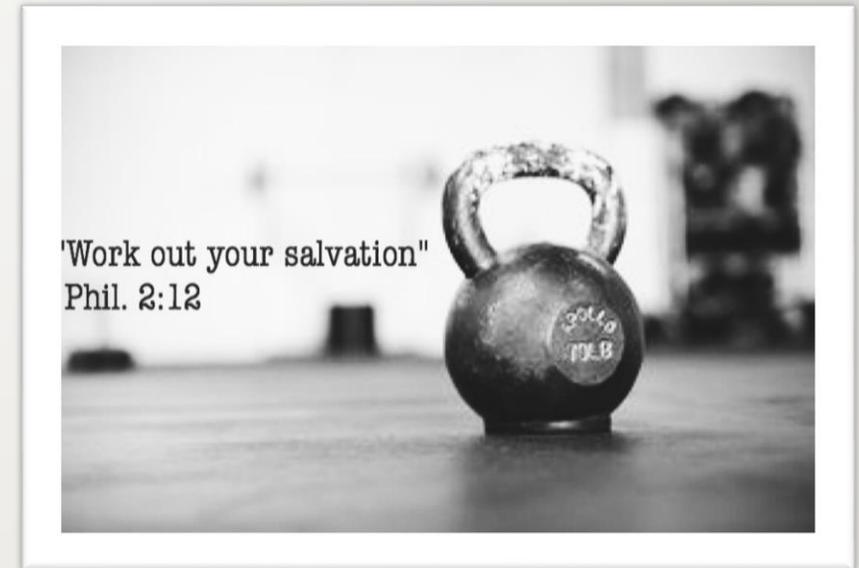


# Work Your BUT off!

“I would love my neighbor, **but** he is not a very nice person.”

## Matthew 5:46

<sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

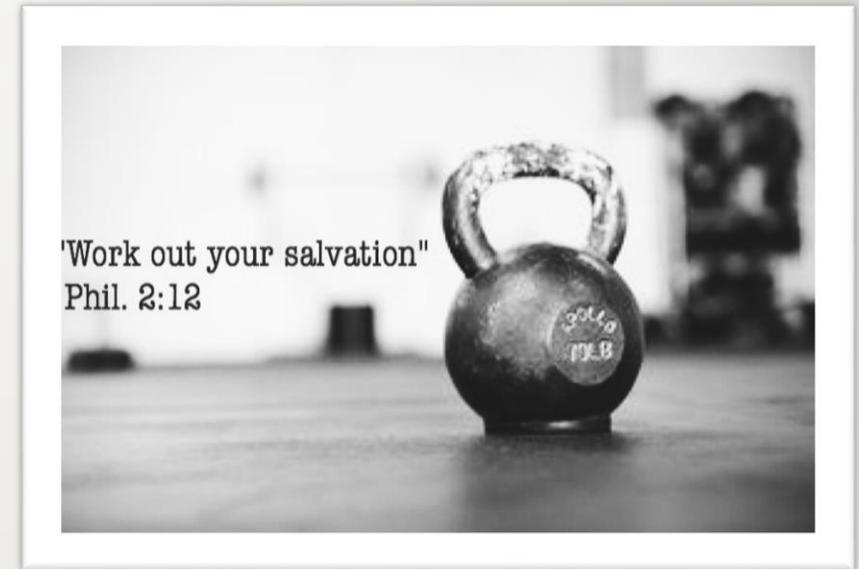


# Work Your BUT off!

“I would share my faith with others, **but** I don't know how.”

## Mark 16:15

<sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”



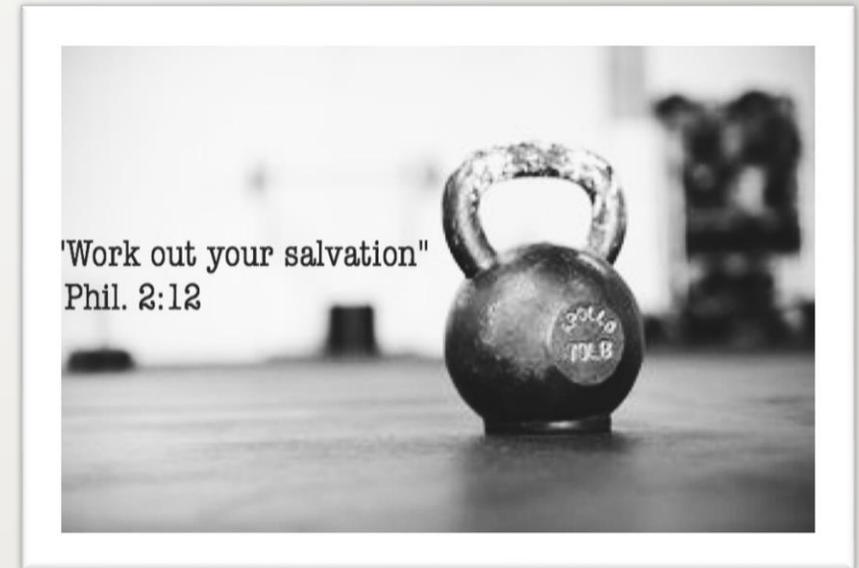
# Work Your BUT off!

“I would tithe, **but** I can't afford it!”

## Malachi 3:10

<sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse,  
that there may be food in my house.

And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of  
hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven  
for you and pour down for you a blessing  
until there is no more need.

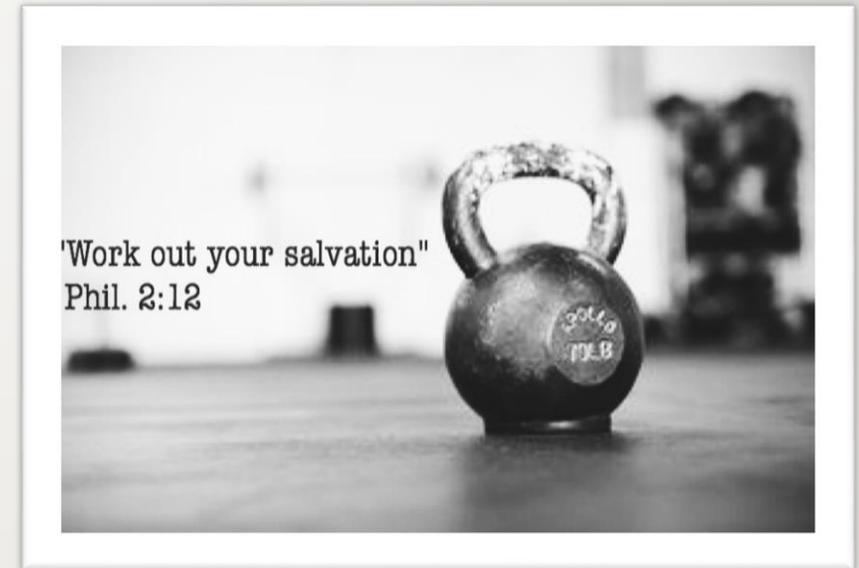


# Work Your BUT off!

“I would love to serve in the church, **but** I just don't have any time.”

## 1 Peter 4:10

<sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

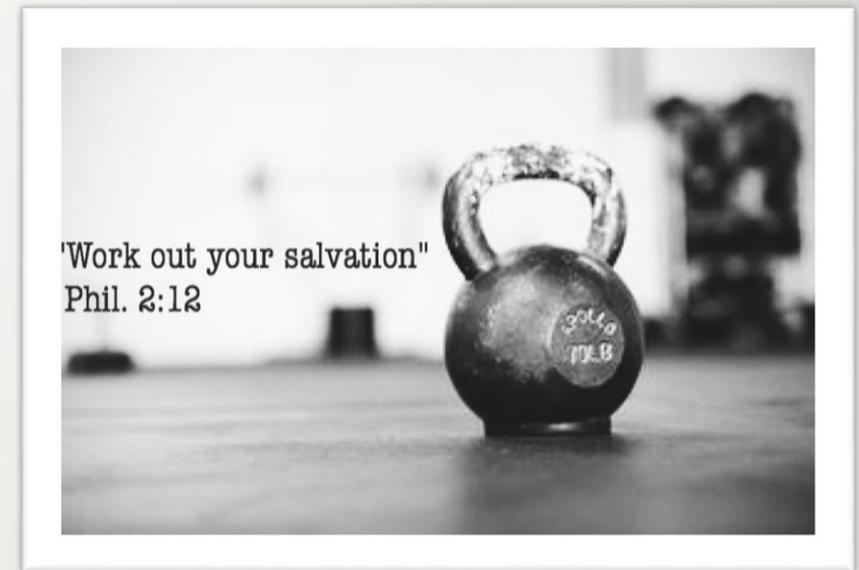


# Work Your BUT off!

“I know I should forgive so-and-so, **but** they were so mean to me!”

**Ephesians 4:32 (CEV)**

<sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.

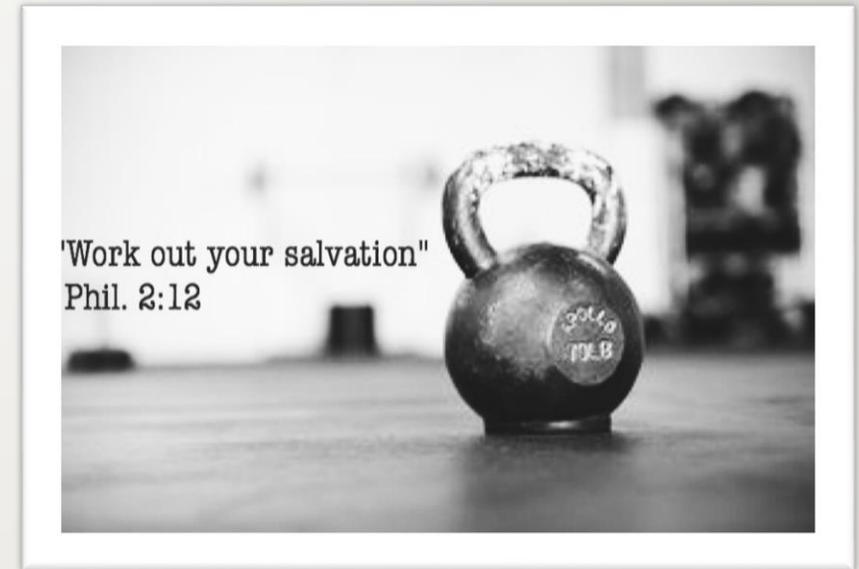


# Work Your BUT off!

“I need to stop sinning, **but** I can’t!”

## Romans 6:14

<sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

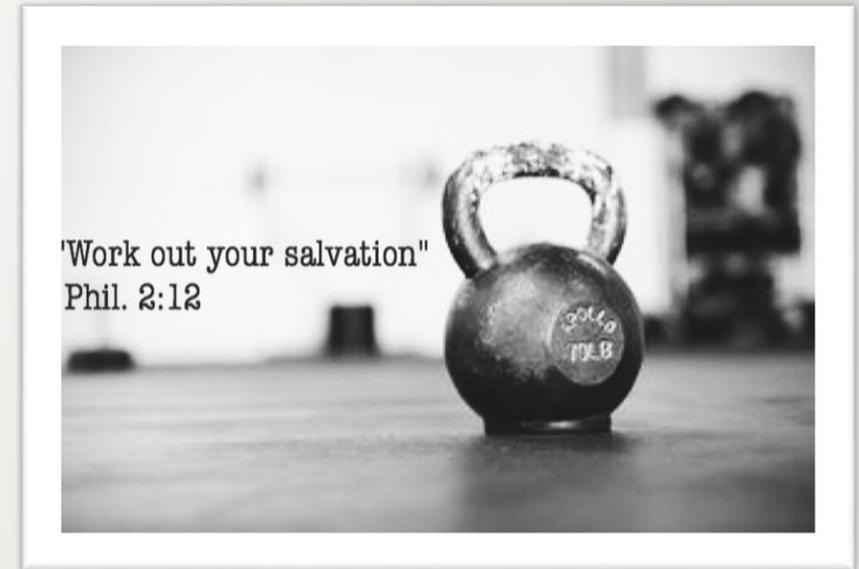


# Work Your BUT off!

“I would love to attend services regularly, **but** I am so busy!”

## Hebrews 10:25

<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

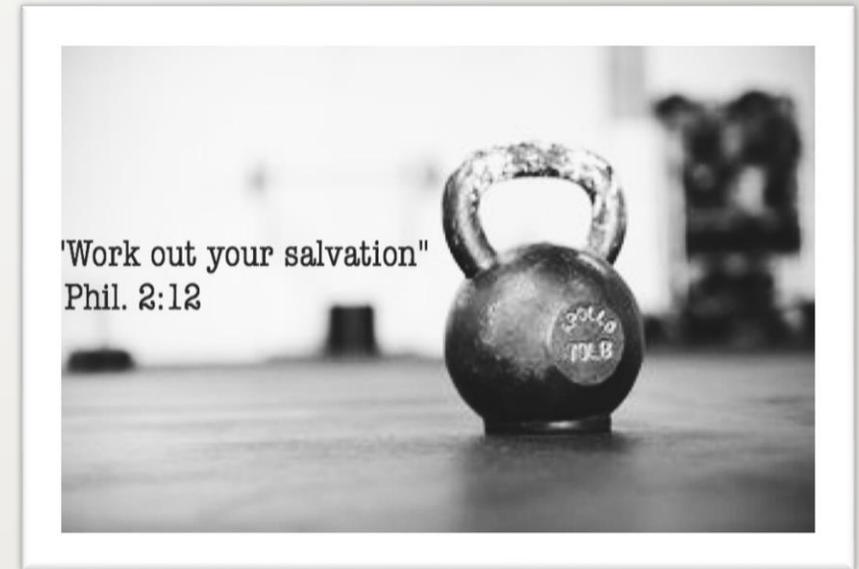


# Work Your BUT off!

“I would love worship, **but** I can't sing!”

## Psalm 96:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

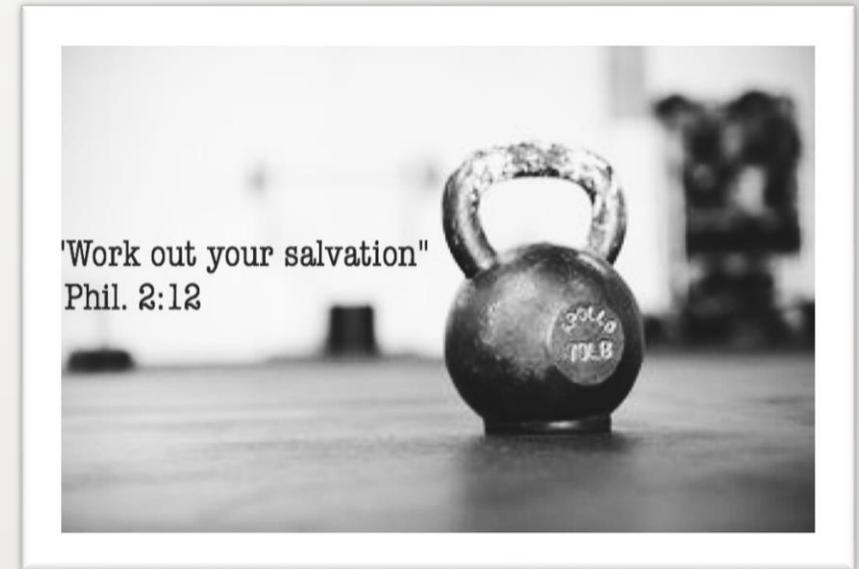


# Work Your BUT off!

“I would study the Bible, **but** I can't understand it!”

## 2 Timothy 2:15

<sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

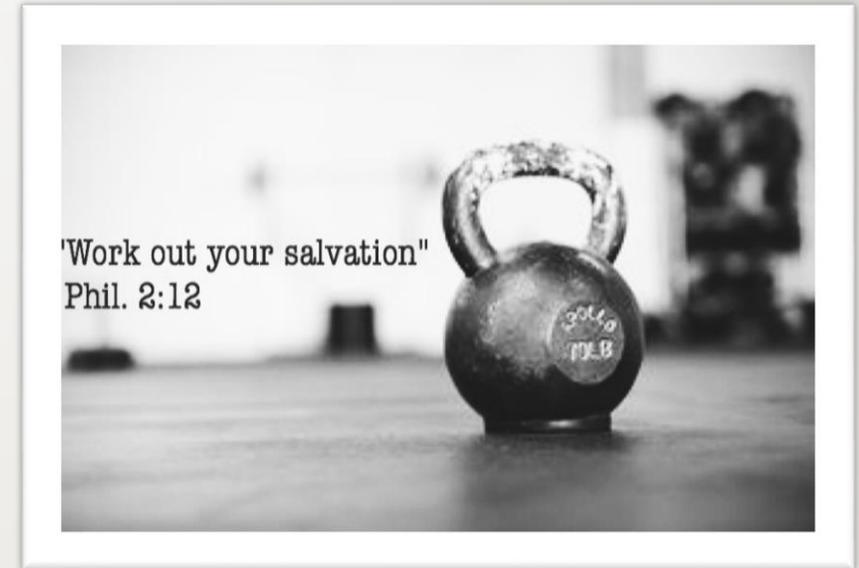


# Work your **BUT** off!

“I would pray, **but** I can’t concentrate!”

**1 Thessalonians:17**

<sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing,



# Work It Out!

- **Philippians 2:12**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling,

# Here is some great news!

- **Philippians 2:12-13**

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

# Here is some great news!

You do not work out your salvation alone!

You can't!

God works IN YOU, both TO WILL and TO DO his good pleasure!

