



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### It's Up to You!

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:12 - Wherefore, my beloved, as ye 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. . . 1 Corinthians 15:58 -Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

The Philippians had from the beginning manifested a remarkable readiness to show respect to the apostle Paul, and to listen to his teaching. In his presence only, but now much more in his absence," Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter. This "obedience" was to the will of God as set forth by him. He still appeals to them, and urges them to follow his counsels, that they might secure their salvation.

**Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** Complete it; God has begun the work; carry it out unto the end. It is each person's own work; no human friend, no pastor, not even an apostle, can work it for you. Acting with reverent obedience, awe, and respect for God, not with terror. In order to "work out your own salvation" you need to put on the whole armor (Ephesians 6:13) of God so that you can carry out to completion what you have begun. Moreover, God's Word is a weapon we can use to fight the enemy. For it is God who worketh in you (Philippians 1:6). This encourages us to do our utmost, because our labour shall not be in vain: we must still depend on the grace of God. The working of God's grace in us, is to quicken and take part in our endeavours.

It is your duty to make a personal effort to secure your salvation and work it. It is your duty because it is your own personal interest that is at stake. No one else has, or can have, as much interest in your salvation as you should have. Our earthly friends cannot save us. No effort of theirs can deliver us from eternal death without your own effort. They might pray, and weep, and plead, but they cannot save us. There is work to be done in our own hearts which they cannot do. It is your duty, because the salvation of the soul will not take care of itself without an effort on your part. There is no more reason to suppose this than that health and life will take care of themselves without your own effort.

Have an eager, trembling anxiety to obey God in all things, considering the tremendous sacrifice of Christ, the unspeakable depth and tenderness of His love, the immense importance of a present salvation from sin, the momentous preciousness of a future salvation from death.

Be not shaken or agitated with the strife's, the temptations, and the cares of life. Be fixed in the faith, and let not the power of sin, or the deceitfulness of pretended philosophy, or the arts of the enemy of the soul seduce you from the faith of the gospel. The hope of the resurrection and of future glory should stimulate us to great and self-denying efforts in honor of Him who has revealed that doctrine, and who purposes graciously to reward us there. **We should be excited to toil and self-denial by the prospect of immortal glory; and by the assurance that our works are not in vain.** Paul said that because of the resurrection, nothing we do is wasted. Your labor is not in vain! Continue being diligent in your assignment, knowing your work will have eternal results.

To work out your salvation with fear and trembling you must be spiritually grounded. Therefore, we must serve God with a deep sense of respect and seriousness. Jesus has empowered and equipped us in this world to fulfill the assignment He has given you and to continue the purpose for which He came.

"Not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42) That prayer is the key. We can live a life of victory by the power of the Spirit if we consciously and soberly choose to follow God's will, not our own. You can make it. If you keep walking with Jesus, keep fighting the good fight of faith, you will win. You may suffer blows, but you can get up again. God's Spirit living in you is the ultimate source of victory. No matter how long it takes, and no matter how many bruises you may bear, look up from the mat and say with firm resolve [determination], *"Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me"* (Micah 7:8).