



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **Work out your own Salvation!**

**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.

Paul is not telling us to earn our salvation, but to work out what God has already worked in us through His Holy Spirit. This involves living a life of obedience and good works as a response to the grace we have received. We should demonstrate our salvation through our actions, motivated by reverence and awe for God, not by fear of losing it.

Salvation is not just a one-time event, but an ongoing process of sanctification where we live out our faith daily. The reason we are able to accomplish this is because God is at work within us, giving us the desire and the power to do His will. **The secret to a changed life is to submit to His control and let Him work.** Also, we must condition ourselves to think like Christ. To change our desires to be more like Christ's, we need the power of the indwelling Spirit, the influence of faithful Christians, obedience to God's Word (**not just exposure to it**), and sacrificial service. Often it is in doing God's will that we gain the desire for it.

Many sincere seekers for God are puzzled about what He wants them to do. The religions of the world are mankind's attempt to answer this question. But Jesus' reply is brief and simple: We must believe on Him who God has sent. Satisfying God does not come from the work we do, but from whom we believe. The first step is accepting that Jesus is who He claims to be. All spiritual development is built on this affirmation.

We are to be open-minded on many issues, but not on how we are saved from sin. No other religious teacher could die for the sins of the whole human race; no other religious teacher came to earth as God's only Son; no other religious teacher rose from the dead. Our focus should be on Jesus, whom God provided as the way to have an eternal relationship with Himself. There is no other name or way!

God will help us remain true to our faith and work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. No matter whatever difficult times we must face. We may have to endure trials, persecution, or violent death, but our souls cannot be harmed if we have accepted Christ's gift of salvation. We know we will receive the promised rewards.

**During times of great stress, we may feel God's presence more clearly and find help from other believers we never thought would care.** Therefore, people of God do not shrink from your faith in times of persecution, but to show by our endurance that our faith is real. Faith means resting in what Christ has done for us in the past, but it also means trusting Him for what He will do for us in the present and in the future.

When we speak of trials, it is not necessary about natural disasters or God's punishments, but the response of an unbelieving world to people of faith. All of us face such trials when we let our light shine into the darkness. We must accept trials as part of the refining process that burns away impurities, preparing us to meet Christ. Trials teach us patience and help us grow to be the kind of person God wants us to be.

In a culture filled with moral depravity and pressures, God can offer help when you are tempted. Running from a tempting situation is your first step on the way to victory. Idolatry is still a serious problem today, but it takes a different form. We put our trust in paper money and plastic cards. Trusting anything for what God alone provides is idolatry. Our modern idols are those symbols of power, pleasure, or prestige that we so highly regard.

Before Jesus left His ministry on earth to return to heaven, He promised to send His Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to teach, help, and guide us. Therefore, we're prepared for action ("gird up the loins of your mind"), live with self-control, and work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. It is easy to tell others how to live and then not to take our own advice.

**We must be careful to practice what we preach.**

**People of God, you must work out your own salvation with fear and trembling!**