

GOD'S PART/MY PART IN CHANGING ME
How to Enjoy the Rest of Your Life - Part 4 of 12
Philippians 2:12-13
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PHILIPPIANS 2:12

"... Continue to WORK OUT your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who WORKS IN you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

"work out":

"your salvation":

"God works in you":

I. GOD'S PART IN CHANGING ME.

3 Tools He Uses

1. The Bible

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point ..." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (LB)

2. The Holy Spirit

"Once the Spirit ... lives within you, He will bring to your whole being ... new strength and vitality."

Romans 8:11 (Ph)

"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him." I Cor. 3:18 (LB)

3. Circumstances

To those who love God and are called according to his plans, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good. For God chose us to bear the family likeness of his Son." Rom. 8:28-29 (Ph)

"Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways." Prov. 20:30 (GN)

II. MY PART IN CHANGING ME -- THREE CHOICES

1. I can choose what I think about.

"Be careful how you think. Your life is shaped by your thoughts." Prov. 4:23 (GN)

"Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the 'new self' that has been created in God's way ..." Eph 4:23-25 (Jer)

Rom. 12:2 Think Feel Act; Value of Bible Meditation: Psalm 1:1-3; Phil. 4:8, Col. 3:16, Ps. 119:9 & 11, Joshua 1:8

2. I can choose to depend on God's Spirit moment by moment.

"Take care to live in Me and let Me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit." John 15:4-5 (LB)

3. I can choose my response to circumstances.

"When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders but welcome them as friends! Realize that they come to test your faith and produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed and you become people of mature character, people of integrity, with no weak spots." James 1:2-4 (Ph)

"We can be full of joy here and now, even in our trials and troubles. These very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character ..." Romans 5:3-4