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WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION

There are some scriptures that do not seem to make sense to our natural understanding. They might even appear to contradict other scriptures. One such scripture is found in Philippians 2:12b where it says, ***“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”***

What? Work out salvation on your own? Isn't it supposed to be a free gift from God's grace? Yes, it is freely given by God. We do not earn salvation by “working” for it. So, what is a proper understanding for working it out ourselves?

Philippians 2:13 says, ***“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”***

It does not mean we have to work to be saved. It means that when we receive salvation, we must allow God, through his word and the Holy Spirit to “do his will” and to “do what pleases him in us.” This is the growth process from a babe in Christ to full maturity. Even though God's will is spoken to us, it is up to us to do it. This “working out our salvation” would be essentially the same process as sanctification, which is the setting apart of ourselves unto God and being daily purified by his grace.

This requires an act of our will. It does not just “happen.” We must make conscious choices. These choices to “do his will” and his “good pleasure” are the “working out our salvation” to conform ourselves to the image of Christ within us.

Our salvation does not depend on this. We are eternally saved through Jesus Christ. However, it will impact our heavenly reward. So, “work out [the reward] of your own salvation “by seeking and doing the will of God.”

Be like putty [clay] in the Potter's [God's] hand and let him mold you.