

All In for SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Philippians 2:12-13

Big Idea: Spiritual growth is an exercise in obedience.

-- v. 12a - *"Therefore, my dear friends..."*

- Christian living is a sequence of practical *Responsibilities* to God's revealed truth.
- Here, Paul is referring back to v. 9-11.
- The idea: If you understand and truly believe the Lordship of Christ, then here is what you will gladly do...

-- v. 12c (we'll come back to 12b) - *"...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling..."*

- Because Christ is Lord, be *All In* for spiritual growth!
- We work out our salvation with "fear and trembling" because everything is riding on this.
- *What does it mean to work out our salvation with fear and trembling?*

-- v.12b - *"...as you have always obeyed..."*

- To call Christ Lord is to submit ourselves to a life of obedience.
- Paul is not saying the Philippian church was perfect in obedience, but characterizing the nature of their salvation as obedience.
- **More than just an idea, the Gospel is a *Command* (Acts 2:37-38, Acts 16:30-31).**
 - As Christ's ambassadors, we are called to reiterate Christ's command to believe in Him (Mat. 28:19-20, 2 Thes. 1:8).
 - Life in Christ begins with obedience to the call of the Gospel.

- **Spiritual growth is the result of continued, ever-increasing *Obedience* to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
 - The simple difference between wisdom and foolishness is obedience to God's Word (Matthew 7:24-26).
 - *Do you view spiritual growth as an exercise in obedience?*
 - *Do you rejoice in the call to obey Christ, or does His call to humble obedience inspire defiance in you?*
- **A Vital Implication for Parents:** Among all that we can teach our children, almost nothing is as important as *Obedience*.
 - If our children never learn to obey us, who stand physically before them, then how will they ever learn to obey God?
 - Anyone who never embraces obedience will never be a fruitful Christian, because following Christ is all about obedience.
- *"Working out our salvation with fear and trembling"* begins by embracing a life of obedience to Christ.

-- v.12b - *"not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence"*

- **Your obedience is your *Responsibility*.**
 - Paul was not going to accept the excuse from the church that they didn't know how to grow when he wasn't around.
 - Every person who has God's Word in his hands and the Holy Spirit in His life is thoroughly equipped to grow (2 Pet. 1:3-8).
 - Those who possess both the Spirit and the Word have been given *"everything we need for life and godliness."*
 - For this reason, make every *Effort* to grow in Christ!

Conclusion

- Nobody but you is responsible for your spiritual growth. Therefore, make every effort *"to work out your salvation with fear and trembling..."*