

FEAR & TREMBLING

Philippians 2:12-18

"Fear and trembling" means to live in **deep awe, profound respect, and honest humility** before God.

THERE IS A **PURPOSE** TO **ACHIEVE**.

📖 Philippians 2:12 (NIV84) "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling..."

Understanding Salvation:

- **PAST tense: Our JUSTIFICATION: We are saved from the penalty of sin.**

📖 Romans 3:22–24 (NIV84) "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

📖 Galatians 2:16 (NIV84) "... man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

- **PRESENT tense: Our SANCTIFICATION. We are saved from the power of sin.**

📖 1 Thessalonians 4:3–4 (NIV84) "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable..."

📖 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV84) "May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- **FUTURE tense: Our GLORIFICATION. We are saved from the presence of sin.**

📖 1 John 3:2 (ESV) "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is."

📖 Philippians 3:20–21 (ESV) "...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."

📖 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV84) "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

THERE IS A **PRINCIPLE** TO **RECEIVE**.

God working in us gives us the **desire** and the **power** to do His will.

📖 Philippians 2:13 (NIV84) "...it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."

📖 Colossians 1:27 (NIV84) "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

📖 Philippians 2:14–16 (NIV84) "Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶ as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing."

THERE IS A **PROMISE** TO **BELIEVE**.

📖 Philippians 2:17–18 (NIV84) "...even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me."

THE PROMISE: Our labor and service for Christ will result in joy.

📖 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV84) "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Digging Deeper: In a world where it is increasingly easy to fake our life, what does it look like to genuinely "work out" our faith? When the culture around us encourages dishonesty, comparison, and self-promotion, how can we maintain our integrity? What is one practical way you can live so distinctively that your faith not only looks real but is real?

