

“Evidence of God’s Works”
Philippians 2:12-18

Introduction: There is an old question often asked by apologists and preachers; “If you were put to trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” That is a sobering question because evidence matters. In an investigation, claims alone are not enough. Evidence reveals what is true.

1. God Works Within You (v. 12-13)

- A believer’s outward life should give evidence of the inward reality of salvation.
- **Application:** Think about it, the fruit does not save the tree, it simply proves that the tree is alive. In the same way, obedience, holiness, and spiritual growth are evidences that God is at work within someone. That means the Christian life cannot be passive or casual.
- God not only gives believers the power to obey Him, but also gives the desire to obey Him. He changes our hearts so that we begin to want what pleases Him, and then He strengthens us to actually live it out.

2. God Shines Through You (v. 14-16)

- Paul wants the Philippians to understand that merely going through the motions of obedience while the heart grumbles, complains, or causes division is not enough.
- The evidence of God’s work within us should shine through you and be a light to the darkness of the world around us.
- **Application:** The church is called to be a proclaiming church, not a complaining church.

3. God Produces Joy in You (v. 17-18)

- In the sacrificial system, a drink offering would be poured out upon the sacrifice as an act of worship to God. Paul uses that picture to describe his own life and ministry.
- **Application:** Believers can endure difficulty, give of themselves, serve others, and remain faithful even in hardship because their joy is rooted in Christ and not in comfort. When the world sees believers faithfully servicing and joyfully enduring for the sake of Jesus, it becomes evidence that God is truly at work within them.

Your Response: The question for each of us this morning is this: Is there evidence of God’s work in your life?

Not perfection, but evidence. Is there growing obedience? Is there a transformed heart? Is there a love for God’s Word? Is there a desire to pursue holiness, unity, and faithfulness? Is there joy in Christ even in difficulty?