

“The Secret of Contentment: Stop Whining, Start Shining!”

Philippians 2:12-18



WORK IT OUT

Philippians 2:12-13

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, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

James:2:14

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?... In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

STOP WHINING

Philippians 2:14-15

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”

START SHINING

Philippians 2:15b-18

Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. But 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. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS:

SHARE: What things do you work hard at? Why?

READ: Philippians 2:12. Look closely at the sentence, “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” Going word by word... What does each word tell you?

READ: Philippians 2:13. Who is working in this verse? How does this work with the work we are supposed to do in verse 12?

READ: Ephesians 2:8-10. What does this tell you about salvation? Read James 2:14. How do you reconcile this verse with what we learned in Ephesians?

READ: Philippians 2:14-15. What do you tend to grumble or complain about the most? Why? What does this verse tell us the benefit to not grumbling or arguing? How do you think “working out our salvation” and not grumbling are related?

READ: Philippians 2:15b-18. What do these verses tell us happens when we do not grumble or complain?

READ: Matthew 5:16. When we let our light shine, what is the result?

DISCUSS: What can you do to work out your salvation this week? What can you do to not complain this week?

PRAY:

