

“Joy In The Everyday: Is It Me or Is It Him?”

Growth Group Guide

July 12, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

The Greek word for “work” in Philippians 2:12-13 is where we get our English word “energy.” So in these verses, we find Paul encouraging us that God’s energy in us moves our dependence onto Him so what pleases Him is accomplished through us. Is it me or is it Him...Yes! Like the moon reflects the sun, like a lightbulb shines with electric energy. The partnership ensures the pleasing glow. How is this encouraging to you?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer inviting the Spirit to bring His energy to your heart and conversation. Praise Him that when we partner with Him in living the Christian life, being who we’ve become in Jesus is ensured!

Father, I’m so glad that the Holy Spirit is within me, to strengthen me with power in my inner person ... to make Christ real within in me and flood my heart with His limitless love ... to enable me to know in personal experience the things You have so freely bestowed on me in Christ—my new identity, my incredible spiritual blessings. ... I praise You that Christ is not a weak person outside me, but a tremendous power inside me ... that through Him I am competent to cope with life, to do Your will, to love with Your love, to be more than a conqueror. ... I can look forward to actually becoming all You have in mind for me to be. (Myers, Ruth. Myers, Warren. 31 Days of Praise. Kindle. Day 14.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. In the Old Testament, God was primarily viewed as external to people. He would come and go, occasionally coming upon someone to offer the His power. How does this view create issues for us as people?
2. **Read Philippians 2:12-13.** What about God changes for us in the New Testament era? Based on your answers from the previous question, why is this so important and can revolutionize the way we live?
3. The word “work” where it says “God is at work in you” has the idea of divine energy. **Read Romans 8:11.** How do you see that divine energy at work in this verse? How does that tie in with Philippians 2:5-13?
4. In Philippians 2:12, Paul tells us to work out, not work for, our salvation. The “working out” occurs in our soul (thinking, feeling, and choosing, i.e., mind, will, emotions) and body. We are to work out or progress in what’s already completed in us at salvation. **Read Ephesians 2:5-6, Romans 8:28-29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, and 2 Corinthians 5:17.** What in these verses is complete the day we are saved? What is still being “worked out” in our souls?
5. God wants us to reach our full potential. In fact, He’s providing infinite amounts of energy for us to do so, but He won’t work apart

from our engagement with Him. How do phrases like “all of Him, none of me” or “let go, let God” undermine what Paul means?

6. Why do you think Paul clarifies that we work out our own salvation?
7. “God works in us to will and do (work) for His good pleasure.” God works in us to choose to do what pleases Him, but we still get to choose. God has limited Himself to only act as we depend on Him. When we do, His work is done through us, bringing Him enjoyment. What do you think about this? Discuss how the willing comes before the doing in this verse. How does it show what matters most to God?
8. Have you or someone you know said, “I’m not sure if what I’m doing is God or me?” Paul is saying all we do should be both us and God together. Why do you think we’ve made it one or the other?
9. How does this partnership with God promote spiritual growth?
10. When we partner with God for our spiritual growth, no one else can stop it! What excuses can we make to growing spiritually? Based on Philippians 2:5-13, how can we get back to the progress He desires?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Our dependence on God, who’s inside us and active, is what enables us to make every effort to grow spiritually.** Beloved Christian, you don’t need someone else to motivate you in growing spiritually. He’s giving you all the benefit of His energizing life IN you for motivation and the choices to depend on Him for the power to live what pleases Him. God is all in, and if you are, with your full dependence on Him, spiritual growth will occur, for you are well able and fully equipped when God joyfully fuels it all. Do you find you have left off letting God grow you in an area of your spiritual growth? Talk to Him about it today. Be even more purposeful, by His power, to live dependent on Him for growth in this area as you let Him energize your will and obedience. The result? A joyful partnership accomplishing God’s good pleasure in and through you to the world around you.

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

On Thursday, Dove Medical celebrated their 13th birthday! A fun, free event with food, fellowship, and tours was enjoyed by kids and kids at heart. We are truly blessed for the years Dove has joyfully and lovingly served our communities. If you are interested in volunteering, a special opportunity for the months of July and August exists for Thursdays from 8:15a-9:15a for anyone including families with kids. Due to summer activities and vacations, the team that sweeps, dusts, mops, and vacuums once a week is not available to clean the inside of the building. This puts the burden on the staff whose greatest need is to focus on serving patients and visitors. If you are interested, just call their friendly office and set up a tour (if you haven’t done one already), and get started this week! They only need cleaning commitments for two Thursdays a month. (July 2026 Link Letter.)

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