

Midweek Study

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in pursuit of **HAPPINESS** Through Philippians



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The Happiest Christian¹ Philippians 2:12-13

Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

The happiest Christian is a growing Christian!

SANCTIFICATION – Becoming in practice what God declares you to be in truth.

Salvation – You are saved. You don't have to "earn" your salvation. You don't have to "work for" your salvation. However, you do have to "work out" your salvation. You are saved, but you have to work out its implications in your life.

God's Part in Your Spiritual Growth

1) God Uses His Word to Help You Grow Spiritually

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV) ²as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

(NLT) - Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation.

2) God Uses His Spirit to Help You Grow Spiritually

John 14:26 (NKJV) ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

All Word and No Spirit, **You'll Dry Up**

All Spirit, and No Word, and **You'll Blow Up**

but both Word and Spirit, and **You'll Grow Up**

¹ Some of these concepts are influenced by Rick Warren's sermon on this passage, entitled: "God's Part/My Part in Changing Me".

3) God Uses Circumstances to Help You Grow Spiritually

Romans 8:28-29 (NKJV) - ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

There is nothing that could come in the life of a believer without God's permission. He doesn't say they are all good, but He will use them for good.

Your Part in Your Spiritual Growth

1) I Can Choose to Internalize God's Word

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NKJV) - ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The Value of Bible Meditation: Psalm 1:1-3; Phil. 4:8; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 119:9, 11; Joshua 1:8

2) I Can Choose to Depend on God's Spirit, Moment by Moment

John 15:4-5 (NKJV) - ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

How do you know when you are depending on God's Spirit? Check your prayer life. **Whatever you pray about, you're depending on God for.** Your decisions, feelings, relationships, deadlines, purchases, everything!

3) I Can Choose to Respond the Right Way to Circumstances

James 1:2-4 (NKJV) - ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

A) We go through Difficult Circumstances Because of OURSELVES.

a) **Samson** got into a lot of trouble, but all of it was his fault.

b) **Jonah** disobeyed God and found himself in a storm.

B) We go through Difficult Circumstances Because of OTHERS.

Acts 27:9-11 (NKJV) - ⁹ Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,

¹⁰ saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."

¹¹ Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.

HOW DO WE RESPOND?

1. Enjoy God's Presence (Acts 27:23)
2. Trust in God's purpose (Acts 27:24)
3. Believe God's promises (Acts 27:25)