

Philippians 2:12-18

Shining as Lights in the World

The work of God in our lives says a lot about our faith. In this section, Paul discusses the fact that God is at work in our lives and the significance this has on those around us.

> **Verse 12** says to work out (or, live out) our salvation. What does the idea of living out our salvation mean? Since Christ changed our hearts, our lives should reflect that change.

> **Verse 13** says that God is working in our lives to carry out His will and purposes. Why is it important to “surrender” to God in this area? God is working to conform us into Christ’s image. We must surrender our will over to God as He does this.

> What command is given in **verse 14**, and what is the result in **verse 15** of keeping this command? Do all things without complaining/grumbling/disputing (arguing). Result = A great testimony, people unable to find fault in us, we will shine as lights for Christ.

Application

Our faith is not a “religious” practice of following rules or conforming to a status quo. Rather, it is a relationship with God in which He is highly involved. These verses bring out two key truths that we must always remember:

- God is actively working in our lives, through which He is accomplishing His purposes.
- Our lives are a light for Christ, through which people should see the genuineness of our faith.

Through any circumstance we face in life, these two statements are true. Whether we are having the greatest day of our lives or facing the worst possible tragedy, God is actively involved. How we respond to certain circumstances or certain people(!) can be a means of shining as lights for Christ. May our lives be a light that reveals the work God is doing in us!