

NETCAST SERMON NOTES

Series: This Isn't Normal

Date: June 7th, 2026

Title: The Model

Speaker: Esther Baird

Key Scripture: Philippians 2:12–18 (with Philippians 1:27–30 & 2:5–11)

The Big Idea: Because Jesus is Lord, we are called to a life of God-fueled action—working out what God has already worked in us by living joyfully, boldly, and securely.

A Life of God-Fueled Action

Paul's command to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" does not mean we achieve salvation on our own. Instead, it is our active response to the work Jesus has already accomplished; we are simply working out (*katergazomai*) what God has already worked in us.

- **The Reality of False Idols:** Apart from Jesus, we try to fix our brokenness through human effort—whether through money, promotions, or addictions. These false idols over-promise and under-deliver, leaving us completely powerless on our own.
- **The Divine Empowerment:** We cannot move a single step forward toward Jesus without the Holy Spirit directing us. God provides the supernatural energy (*energeo*) that generates both our inner desire and our actual ability to follow Him.

The Headwall Story: Freezing in panic on a steep, icy ski mountain illustrates our inability to move on our own. We cannot navigate the terrain of faith without the Lord instructing our next steps, pointing where to turn, and going before us to make tracks we can follow.

Three Ways We Are Called to Live

1. Live Joyfully

We are commanded to do all things without grumbling, disputing, or complaining—even when the grocery store reorganizes its aisles or the gas pump doesn't work. True joy is not a feeling based on our circumstances; it is a fruit of the Spirit that we can access even in times of fear, worry, and transition.

2. Live Boldly

We are called to be blameless and innocent children of God who shine like stars in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation. We do not fix the darkness around us on our own; rather, we reflect the eternal light of Jesus to expose what is twisted and show others that they no longer have to live in the dark.

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3. Live Securely

We are instructed to hold fast to the Word of Life. Our ultimate security does not depend on our own spiritual grip strength, but on the one who holds us securely in His hand.

The Child's Hand Analogy: A child crossing the street holds onto their parent's hand as tightly as they can, but it is ultimately the parent's strong grip that keeps the child safe and secure.

Call to Action / Reflection: The Greek word for "holding fast" also means "holding forth." As you cling to Jesus for dear life this week, how can you openly show the people around you exactly who you are clinging to?