

Carnal Christians, Part 2

Who's Working?

1. The devil and the flesh

“It wasn't that long ago that you lived in the religion, customs, and values of this world, obeying *the dark ruler of the earthly realm* who fills the atmosphere with his authority, and works diligently in the hearts of those who are disobedient to the truth of God. The *corruption that was in us from birth* was expressed through the deeds and desires of our self-life. We lived by whatever natural cravings and thoughts our minds dictated, living as rebellious children subject to God's wrath like everyone else.”

Ephesians 2:2-3 TPT

WORK-in Greek from which we derive the word, energy.

Before we were born again, all of our energy came from our carnal nature, supercharged by the devil.

There is powerful energy at work in every person living in the flesh and surrendered to the ruler of darkness.

2. God is working.

“But God still loved us with such great love. He is so rich in compassion and mercy. Even when we were dead and doomed in our many sins, He united us into the very life of Christ and saved us by His wonderful grace!

Throughout the coming ages we will be the visible display of the infinite, limitless riches of His grace and kindness, which was showered upon us in Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 2:4-5, 7 TPT

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.”

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

“I pray with great faith for you, because I’m fully convinced that the One who began this glorious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you and will put His finishing touches to it until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ!”

Philippians 1:6 TPT

“So then, my dear ones, just as you have always obeyed [my instructions with enthusiasm], not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, *continue to work out your salvation* [that is, cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity] with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ]. For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.”

Philippians 2:12-13 AMP

-The Artist creating the masterpiece isn't a restoration specialist, cleaning up an old portrait.

-The Artist only creates unique, one of a kind masterpieces.

-There's no such thing as a "one stroke wonder".

Summary:

The carnal nature works

The demons work

The Holy Spirit is working

The born again believer is working

"I'll work with you," says the carnal nature to the devil.

"I'll work with you," says the believer to the Holy Spirit.

Don't be discouraged, because He's not.

Keep pressing in, because you're not finished until He's finished.

