

Spirit-filled Obedience

Philippians 2:12-13; John 15:1-4

INTRODUCTION

We will obey Jesus—whatever the cost—in the power of the Spirit.

Your spirit loves Jesus. But your flesh... still loves sin. This then is why there is a battle. And this is why there must be surrender. Your surrender to the will of God AND to the Spirit of God who is in you, leads to your sanctification. And know this... He who began a good work in you WILL complete it (Phil 1:6).

Your Surrender, God's Spirit (Philippians 2:12-13)

Your SURRENDER (vs. 12)

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling...

“work out” is in the present, middle/passive, imperative verb tense. Meaning, you are now and will continue to work out your salvation. But this is NOT all on you!

Example:

- Leave this room immediately! (present ACTIVE imperative)
- You will leave this room immediately! (present MIDDLE/PASSIVE imperative)

Basically, Paul is saying you WILL work out your salvation. So, you might as well just surrender to that. Because it IS going to happen to you. And I am calling on you to willingly surrender to that process.

What does it mean to work out our salvation in “fear and trembling”?

Related passages: 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

God's SPIRIT (vs. 13)

¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Related passage: John 15:1-4

Gospel Ladder Application



CONCLUSION

Your Surrender, God's Spirit.

I believe that God has given you the ability already—because your spirit is made new—to reject the wrong and choose the right. BUT He did not give you the power in your own strength to DO the right. This is when you need to simply receive by faith the life of Jesus in you by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, would You share Your _____ with me right now?

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. Read John 14:21. In the Greek, this is actually NOT written as a command (imperative), but as a fact (indicative). That is, "...you will keep My commands." How did the Gospel accomplish this?
2. What are the two sides of the "sanctification coin"?
3. What area(s) of your life are you currently not surrendered in?
4. What do you need Jesus to share with you?