

**“Obedience With A Purpose”**  
**Philippians 2:12-18**  
**Sermon Series: “Joy Invincible”**

**Philippians 1:27**

**Luke 6:46-49**

**1 John 5:2-3**

We are saved through the obedience of Jesus instead of our own, but we are called as believers to live in obedience under the Lordship of Jesus.

**1. We are to pursue spiritual growth through God’s power so that we become more like Jesus (v.12-13).**

**-Romans 8:29**

**-Galatians 5:16**

Kenneth Wuest: “The words “work out” are the translation of a Greek word which means “to carry out to the goal, to carry to its ultimate conclusion.” We say, “The student worked out a problem in arithmetic.” That is, he carried the problem to its ultimate conclusion. This is the way it is used here. The Philippians are exhorted to carry their salvation to its ultimate conclusion, namely, Christlikeness. The salvation spoken of here is not justification, but sanctification, victory over sin and the living of a life pleasing to the Lord Jesus. They are to see to it that they make progress in their Christian lives. They are to do this with fear and trembling. This is not a slavish terror, but a wholesome caution.

In verse thirteen we have divine enablement. The saints are to carry their salvation which God has given them and which thus belongs to them, to its ultimate goal, always remembering and depending upon the fact that it is God who is working in them both to will and to do of His good pleasure. The word “worketh” in the Greek means “to energize, to work effectively.” Our words “energy” and “energize” come from it. The words “to will” are the translation of a Greek word meaning “to desire,” and refer to a desire that comes from one’s reason. It is this desire to do the good pleasure of God that is produced by divine energy in the heart of the saint as he definitely subjects himself to the Holy Spirit’s ministry. It is God the Holy Spirit who energizes the saint, making him not only willing, but actively desirous of doing God’s sweet will. But He does not merely leave the saint with the desire to do His will. He provides the necessary power to do it.

This we have in the words “to do.” The Greek construction implies habit, the habitual doing of God’s will.

In verse twelve, we have human responsibility, in verse thirteen, divine enablement, a perfect balance which must be kept if the Christian life is to be lived at its best. It is not a *“let go and let God” affair*. It is a *“take hold with God”* business. It is a mutual co-operation with the Holy Spirit in an interest and an activity in the things of God. The rain must not merely rest in the Holy Spirit for victory over sin and the production of a holy life. He must in addition to this dependence upon the Spirit, say a positive NO to sin and exert himself to the doing of the right. Here we have that incomprehensible and mysterious interaction between the free will of man and the sovereign grace of God.”

**2. We are to stop complaining and arguing so that we shine as lights in the world (v.14-15).**

**3. We are to hold fast to the word of life so that there will be rejoicing (v.16-18).**

**2 Timothy 4:6-8**