

PHILIPPIANS

DAY 2

Philippians 2

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TODAY'S THEME: WHAT I NEED, I HAVE

Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV)

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)

"Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

It wasn't uncommon for us to read about the people receiving Paul's message, receiving it with gladness. Who wouldn't love the idea of the forgiveness of their sins? However, it has been said that becoming a Christian is easy, but being one is not. As these Philippian believers had discovered, their issues didn't disappear the minute they received Jesus. There were still issues - lots of them. Evidently there was pride, selfishness, disunity, complaining, arguing, and the added pressure of living in a culture that didn't exactly honor God. The challenge they were facing was one that we still face today. HOW do I actually be a Christian? How do I continue to become like Christ? Is the pressure all on me?

I'm guessing you've probably been in at least one of these situations, if not both. You have the desire to do something, but you don't have the ability to actually do it. Or, you might have the ability to do something, but you don't have the desire to do it. Paul said it this way in Romans: "I do not do what I want to do, but the things I hate to do, these I keep on doing." That might be one of the most relatable passages of Scripture. We've all been there. When we received Jesus, there was an exchange of desires that took place, but there are still "fleshly" impulses that fight against us. How do we overcome that? Is it a matter of not having enough desire? Is it entirely up to my own power? Thankfully not.

Paul in Philippians 2:12 is really reminding them that they received his message with gladness when he was there. Now that he was gone, the real work was getting started - that process of continuing to become like Christ. Is God going to do all the work? No. But when you're short on desire, He's not. When you're short on power, He's not. The encouragement here is really to trust God in every aspect of our relationship with Him. It can be easy to feel at times like, "I have this under control. It's not that hard." It's in moments like that where we can get caught off guard and be in need of some desire and/or power in a hurry. Paul is urging these Philippian believers to trust God for both the desire and power to do the things that please Him. God wants us to be more like Christ than we do, and He's committed to helping us on that journey.

What is God speaking to me about in today's reading?

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY:

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