

## The Grind of Sanctification

Philippians 2:12b

**Big Idea:** In the Bible we find a perfect tension between our responsibility and God's sovereign ability. The Lord calls us to work out our salvation so that His work can be beautifully displayed in our dependence upon His saving grace to do the work.

**God places certain responsibilities on humanity, so that, in carrying out those responsibilities we might be forced to reckon with the reality that it is only in his sovereign ability alone that we will be able to carry out those responsibilities.**

**Psalms 127:1 (ESV)** — **1** Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

**John 3:3 (ESV)** — **3** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

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*God calls us to work not because we are able to work but because he is able and he wants us to become intimately acquainted with his ability.*

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**Proverbs 21:31 (ESV)** — **31** The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.

The essence of our work as believers, it is to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Two aspects of the grind of sanctification:**

**1. Our Work in Sanctification is to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,*

What is a present middle imperative?

**Philippians 1:27 (ESV)** — **27 (1)** Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, **(2)** so that whether I come and see you or am absent, **(3)** I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

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*The work that we do in sanctification is the work of believing the gospel.*

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**Romans 1:16–17 (ESV)** — **16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith (beginning and ending in faith), as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

### Questions to Consider

Have you ever been given a project at work or school that you can't accomplish yourself? What is the intent behind this responsibility? How does it show you your need for outside help?

What is the purpose of our responsibilities given to us by God?

How do they point us to the salvation that only God offers?

Why do you practice the spiritual disciplines (bible reading, prayer, fellowship, witnessing)? How do they remind you of the gospel?

In what ways will you be working out your belief this coming week? What are some things that God is using in your life to stretch your belief in his good purposes?

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