

The Grace of Discipleship

Philippians 2:12c-13

Big Idea: Sanctification is humbling thing because we cannot do what God has called us to do. Instead we must trust in the change that God has worked and is working in us. As we do our desires are changed and our behavior follows.

Psalm 1:1–2 (ESV) — 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

The moment by moment grind of believing the gospel, is also the moment by moment dependence on God's grace for obedience in discipleship.

Three ways we trust in the grace of God for sanctification;

1. _____ **Humility**

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*,

Acts 18:8–11 (ESV) —8 ... And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Much like the work of conversion, the work of transformation occurs as we exercise a profound sense of humility before the Lord and accept his means of progress in godliness, which is faith in his work on our behalf.

2. _____ **on the _____ of God**

13 *for* it is God who *works in you*, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

We can work out our salvation, because it is God that works in us, to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Outside of Christ:

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV) — 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is **not able** to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:7–8 (ESV) — 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for **it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.** 8 Those who are in the flesh **cannot** please God.

In Christ:

John 6:63 (ESV) — 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Romans 8:2 (ESV) — 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

In the good news of Jesus Christ we are given a new life force, we are given a new motivator, we are given the Spirit of Christ so that we might now live by the sustaining energy of the Spirit.

3. _____ **in the _____ of Spirit**

13 *for* it is God who *works in you*, both **to will** and **to work for his good pleasure.**

We always move toward that which we desire most.

Questions to Consider

What are some of the desires of the flesh that God is calling you to put off? What are the desires of the Spirit that God is calling you to embrace?

How does God work on our desires so that we delight in him more and more? (think of the spiritual disciplines)