

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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# God Works In You

By Derek Long

Philippians 2:13 says, "for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (NKJV). The Bible in verses such as this indicates plainly God is working in the Christian. It is easy to get false notions from people in the religious world around us regarding what is involved in God working in us. What does the Bible teach about God's work in us as Christians?

God's working in us does not negate our responsibility to be working. Philippians 2:12, the verse just prior to Philippians 2:13, says, "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" (NKJV). Philippians 2:12 commands us as individuals to be working out our own salvation. Therefore, God's working in us as Christians does not mean God takes over and does everything for us. God working in us is not something which overrides the free will of the individual. God is not miraculously or mysteriously causing us to do what He wants us to do without His cooperation.

God's working in us should motivate us to work on serving God. Philippians 2:13 is sort of like an incentive for working out our own salvation. Philippians 2:13 reminds us we are not all alone in our quest to find righteousness and holiness before God. God is working and supplying us with what we need in order to be pleasing in His sight. Of course, God has supplied all we need in order to accomplish His work in His revealed work (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). When a person does what the Scripture teaches him to do, it can be said God (who is the source of Scripture) is at work in him. A person might not love his enemy, for example, except for the fact God in His word taught him to (Matthew 5:43-48). When a person loves their enemy because of what God has commanded, God has worked in that individual's life while the individual has also been engaged in working out his own salvation.

Philippians 2:13 mentions two things God is working to do in us. God wants us "to will and to do for His good pleasure" (NKJV). "To will" refers to the desire to do what is right. God seeks to create in us a longing to do what is pleasing in His sight. God does so through providing us with things like promises, examples, and instructions contained in His word. God's word is the means He uses to change the heart of the individual or what the person wills (Romans 1:16; 10:17; Acts 2:37; Hebrews 4:12). "To do" refers to us actually carrying out what God would have us to do in our lives. God seeks to produce in us the fruits of righteousness but such fruit is only born as we do our part as well (John 15:1-8). Doing tells us God expects us to live and do certain things to accomplish what is pleasing in His sight. It is not enough "to will" or "to do" without the other. Some people have a desire to do what is

right but never get around to doing what is right. Such a person is not pleasing in God's sight. Other people may do some things that are right in God's sight but from impure motives or with a bad attitude. Such people should not expect to receive the favor of God.

When people today speak of God working in them or perhaps dwelling in them in some mysterious manner but then fail to follow God's instructions, we can tell such are not truly the people God is working in. People whom God is working in according to Philippians 2:12-13 are those people who are working out their own salvation. In addition the person who does not want what God wills is certainly not having God work in their life. If God is working in their life, they will want what God wants.