

GOD'S GRACE

PRECEPT

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

¹² 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; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

TITUS 2:11-12

¹¹ For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹² And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God.

PROMISE

Paul emphasizes that we have a role to play in our ongoing transformation. While the transforming comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, we must be available and willing participants for the work to take root. In our Christian journey, as we receive the saving grace and justifying grace of God, we enter into the process of sanctification; that is the process of becoming like Christ. Just like fitness workouts, trying to achieve the healthy lifestyle we desire, there is what we call a spiritual workout; becoming the person God wants us to be. The sad reality is, many walk out in the process of becoming like Christ. Some of the reasons people tend to do that are lack of commitment, bad experiences in the church, and challenges of life. In 2011, 59% walked out from Christianity, and in 2019, 64% did as well. This is the reason why Paul encourages us to work out our salvation, not walk out of it. The following are some steps in order to this:

GET A GOOD TRAINER. Working out with a personal trainer can boost the success rate of achieving our fitness goals by more than 30 percent according to studies. In Philippians 2:12, Paul is referring to the example of Jesus. There is only one good trainer, that is Jesus, who is holy, good, and perfect. It is also good to follow a Christian mentor or discipler whom we can look up to. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1, *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."* As long as that person is a faithful follower of Jesus, he/she can help you become a better follower of Christ.

REFER TO YOUR OWN WORKOUT. We must focus on your own workout process, not comparing ourselves to others' journey. Focus on your own spiritual journey for God has a different timeline for different people. Galatians 6:4 says, *"Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else."*

ASPIRE TO BECOME BETTER. Paul tells us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. This is a serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ, in that way, we may become better. Paul also tells us in Colossians 3:23 *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people."* Let us persevere in our spiritual workouts so we will mature in our faith and become like Christ in the process.

CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE. As we receive the grace of God, we must change our way of living. We must present ourselves acceptable to God and work out our salvation by renewing our minds so we may prove what is good, acceptable, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:1-2).

EXPECT CHALLENGES. There will be pain and challenges along the way, but the important thing is, *"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:13). It is all by God's grace, and God finds pleasure in giving us His sanctifying grace to help us every step of the way.

PRACTICE

1. Training. What is the most difficult thing you have ever trained for (marathon, college degree, work)? How long did it take? Did you ever consider giving up? What kept you going?

2. Work Out. What are some practical ways that you can work out your salvation *with fear and trembling*?

PRAYER

I. Volunteers

- Pray for God to make our volunteers strong in faith and persistent in good deeds for His glory.

II. Life Link Ministry

- Pray for God's guidance as they usher the people in the service from start to finish.

III. Life Worship

- Pray that they may all carry & communicate God's divine presence during services.

IV. Circles Ministry

- Pray that our youth & singles may grow in loving & serving others & one another.

V. Life Kids Ministry

- Pray that God will bless these volunteers as they teach & care for the children.

VI. Life Sports Ministry

- Pray that this ministry will reach more people to bring them to Christ and have transformed lives.

VII. Young Once Ministry

- Pray for our coordinators Rene & Lita Alipao as they continue to lead this group.