

REDISCOVERING JOY

Change in Me

January 31, 2010

FBC Port A

PHILIPPIANS 2:12b-13 NIV

"... Continue to **WORK OUT** your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who **WORKS IN** you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

"work out":

"your salvation":

"God works in you": (energeo)

I. GOD'S PART IN CHANGING ME

3 Tools He Uses

1. God Uses the **Bible**.

2Tim 3:16-17 NLT All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.

2. God Uses the **Holy Spirit**.

Rom 8:11 NLT The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

1Cor 3:18 NLT Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise.

3. God Uses **Circumstances**.

Rom 8:28-29 NLT And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them. For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Pro 20:30 NLT Physical punishment cleanses away evil; such discipline purifies the heart.

II. MY PART IN CHANGING ME -- THREE CHOICES

1. I can choose **what I think about**.

Pro 4:23 NLT Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Eph 4:23-25 NLT Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God--truly righteous and holy. So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.

Rom 12:2 NLT Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Value of Bible Meditation:

Psalm 1:1-3; Phil. 4:8, Col. 3:16, Ps. 119:9 & 11, Joshua 1:8

2. I can choose to **depend on God's Spirit each moment**.

John 15:4-5 NLT Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.

3. I can choose **my response to circumstances**.

Jas 1:2-4 NLT Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Rom 5:3-4 NLT We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. (4) And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

A man wearing a yellow patterned short-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a black baseball cap stands in a lush green field. He has his arms raised in a gesture of joy or praise, with his mouth open as if shouting or singing. The background is a clear blue sky with several blue star-shaped graphics scattered across it. The overall mood is one of happiness and freedom.

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