

The DOCTRINE OF SIN

Lesson 6 – Whose Really at Work Part 2

CJ Mahaney

Philippians 2:12-13

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

In this text we will discover God’s role and responsibility and our role and responsibility in the process of progressive sanctification. God’s power and our responsibility are **distinguished, described** and **reconciled**.

We learn the nature and the extent of God’s power and the importance and the necessity of our effort and we learn that only God’s **power** makes Godly effort possible.

This is an exhortation that the previous description of the Savior isn’t something for us simply to **admire**, but to **apply** to our lives and by the grace of God to emulate.

He reminds them of their long history of **obedience**.

Having reminded them of his love and long history of obedience, he reminds them of their **responsibility**.

Our Part:

With Fear and Trembling

We do not ask God to work in our place, in place of us or instead us.

Examine the content of your prayers. To often we are asking God to do what He has commanded me to do. In effect postponing obedience through prayer.

Before I give you more sugar, **stir** what you got.

God’s Part:

This command is to an appeal for self-sufficiency. Paul does not want is laboring under the illusion that the power necessary for the growth in Godliness is somehow _____.

“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” ***It is God who works in you what good news!***

The emphasis in this verse is God’s _____ and _____ work in us.

If you have turned from your sins and trust in the Savior for the forgiveness of your sins I can say with certainty that God is at work in your life. He is superior in everyway to the indwelling sin in your life.

Are you _____ and _____ to His work in you heart and life? To many Christians are unaware of how God is at work in their lives.

“This is not the fear of a lost sinner before the Holy One, but the fear of the true child of God before the most loving of all fathers.”

Alec Montier

God is Always at Work

God's work to some degree is always miraculous but it is not _____ apparently _____ . God wants you to be very aware and certain that He is at work.

Conviction of sin is not because you are _____ superior. It is a gift of God, the gift of illumination. Apart for God's grace in your life you would not be aware of your sin, you wouldn't be convicted of your sin you wouldn't care about your sin.

God is Comprehensively at Work

Not only does He empower the _____ but He empowers the _____ behind the doing as well.

You didn't originate this, you were _____ upon by God. All of your responses in your life have been in _____ to the act of God upon your heart through the preaching of the gospel transforming your heart and the continued work of the Spirit in your heart both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

It was the work on the _____ that _____ all of the work within you.

"God does not work and has not worked in His good pleasure because man has worked. God works and has worked therefore man must and can work for God works in him what is necessary for his human working."
Herman Ritterboss

Discussion:

CJ expresses the idea that it is such **"Good News"** that God is at work, how does this strengthen our faith and understanding?

From the standpoint of perception and personal responsiveness, how do you see God's prior and present work expressed in your life?

Through the gift of illumination we can see God at work, how is illumination different than intelligence? (Psalms 119:105, John 16:13, 2 Cor 10:12, Eph 4:18)

Consider the statement "for his good pleasure". What do you think this means?
