

# Perfecting Joy: The Book of Philippians

## The Joy of Being A Light

### How To Be a Light in a Troubled World

**Intro:** Have you heard the voice of the Bridegroom today? He must increase; I must decrease. (*John 3*) This is the great theme of living for and serving Christ with joy.

#### A. The Goal of Every Believer *Phil 2:12-13*

1. I will live my salvation in all areas of my life :12

**Work out my salvation:** This is the process of 'sanctification.' Becoming more and more like Jesus every day—conformed to His image.

**Obedience:** Faithful submission to God's will.

**Personal Responsibility:** Living for Christ in private and in public, in the sacred and the secular.

**Understanding the consequences of sin:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." *Psa 111:10*

2. I will be empowered by God :13  
*While the believer is 'working out' [Vs :12] God is 'working in.'* [Vs :13]

**God's Purpose:** God supplies the energy for us to follow Him—to work out our salvation and to do His will.

**What is that energy?** It is the Holy Spirit:

*John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20*

#### B. How Every Believer Should Reach the Goal *Phil 2:14-18*

1. I will remove these things :14  
**Grumbling**—Complaining [murmuring] Gk gonguzo where we get the English word 'gong.' *1 Cor 10:10*  
**Disputing**—A contrary spirit; arguing for the primary sake of winning the argument. *James 2:4*
2. I will become these :15  
**Blameless**—That you may give no occasion for others to accuse you of having done wrong. *Luke 1:5-6*  
**Innocent**—[Harmless] Without any mixed motive or deceit. *Matt 10:16*
3. I will reveal these :15-16  
**Light** — How I live God's Word  
Gk: phos—the essence or source of light! One who exposes the light of God's word. **Compare** *John 8:12* and *Matt 5:14* where both Jesus and believers are called the 'light' [phos] of the world.  
**Truth** — What I teach of God's Word  
Gk: logos—the very Word of God. *John 1:1*  
To 'hold fast' means to hang on to; to pay attention to. *Heb 2:1*
4. It will result in this :17-18.  
**Joyful...Sacrifice** — For Christ: [See *Num 28:7*] The OT drink offering was poured out over an animal sacrifice and the wine would vaporize. The steam symbolized the rising of the offering to God.  
**Joyful...Service** — For Christ: This is a picture of priestly service. The Philippians were offering their lives sacrificially and faithfully in service to God.



#### Philippians 2:12-18

**: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.

**:14** Do all things without complaining and disputing,

**:15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

**:16** holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

**:17** Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

**:18** For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

#### Key Thought

*We are to work out what God has worked into us.*