

January 20, 2008
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Philippians 2:12-13

**“From Heavenly-Minded to Earthly-Good” Part One
“Divine Motivation to Maturity”**

“so then” (1:27 cf. 2:12; 1:28f cf. 2:15; 1:27 cf. 2:15f; 1:28 cf. 2:12, 16)

“my beloved” (1 Cor. 10:14; 15:58; 2 Cor. 7:1; 12:19; Phil. 3:1)

“just as you have always obeyed”

- Rom. 1:5; 15:18; 14:19, 26; 2 Cor. 7:15; 10:5f

“not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence”

- TWO VIEWS of what this statement modifies:
 - 1) “you have always obeyed”
 - 2) “work out your salvation with fear & trembling”

“work out” (Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:5, 8; Titus 3:5; 2 Peter 1; Eph. 2:8-10)

“fear & trembling”

“for it is God who is at work in you”

- Mt. 15:2; Gal. 2:8; 3:5; 5:6; Eph. 2:2
- Rom. 7:5; Gal. 2:8; 3:5; Eph. 1:11

KEY: We don't struggle for the most part with the EXISTENCE of God as much as we do with the IMPORTANCE of God!

“both to will and to work for His good pleasure”

- to will =
- to work =
- Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints
- Christianity is extremely positive!!!
 - Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Jn. 14-16; Rom. 8; Phil. 4:13, 19

Practical application:

Problem we experience:

- Desensitized
 - Heb. 5:11ff
 - 1 Pet. 2:1ff
 - Rom. 7:14ff; Gal. 5:17-21

If God is indeed creating that desire & effectual ability in me, how can I sense it more?

1. Check the Physical
 - 1 Kings 17-19 - Elijah
2. Check the Moral
 - Phil. 2:12
 - Heb. 5:11ff
 - 1 Pet. 2:1f
 - 1 Pet. 5; James 4 cf. Mt. 5
3. Check the Spiritual -- Practice the Presence of God
 - Prov. = "fear of the Lord"
 - Heb. 4:12f
 - Titus 2
 - Gal. 5:22f
 - Daily time in the WOG & Prayer
4. Check the Emotional / Relational -- Focus on the Love of Christ
 - 2 Cor. 5:14f
 - Phil. 2:5-11
 - Jn. 21:15-17
5. Check the Volitional
 - Heb. 10:24f
 - Jn. 13
 - Rom. 12
 - 1 Cor. 12
 - Mt. 28:18-20

Will we feel God's presence more as we mature?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "If our God is the same as the God of New Testament believers, how can we justify ourselves in resting content with an experience of communion with Him, and a level of Christian conduct, that falls so far below theirs? *If God is the same, this is not an issue that any one of us can evade.*" (This question taken from J.I. Packer, "Knowing God," p. 72)
 - What are some common justifications that believers give for not maturing in their Christian walk?
 - What biblical answer would you give for each of those justifications?
2. God's DESIRE (motivation) & POWER for maturity are as available today as they were in the first century. Are you experiencing them on a daily basis? Why or why not? What might be keeping you from sensing God's motivation & power to grow in Christ-likeness? What can you do to become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit working in your life in this way?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:1-2. If we are not experiencing a longing for the word like v. 2 says, what does v. 1 say might be the problem? Are any of those things a problem for you right now? Confess and repent of them right now and then replace them with spirit-filled behavior (Eph. 4:31-32).