

God, the Volitional Energizer of Believers

I. 2:12 The Command: Human Responsibility

Philippians 2:12 *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;*

**Therefore* (NKJ); *Wherefore* (NIV); *So then* (NASV)

A. The Command: Its Basis - Christ's Actions expressed in verses 5-11

- v. 5-8 His Voluntary Humiliation
- v.8 His Ignominious Death
- v.9-11 His Glorification by the Father

B. The Command: Its Essence & Responsibility

“Work* OUT (NOT work for) YOUR SALVATION/DELIVERANCE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Present Tense (Durative Action) ➤ Imperative Mode (A Command) ➤ Defective Middle Voice, therefore Active | } | <p>See that your salvation/deliverance (Phase 2) is never static, never stagnated, always operating</p> |
|--|---|---|

**work* = κατεργαζεσθε / *katergazesthe*, an intensified, strengthened form of the verb “to work”

THE POINT: SEE TO IT THAT YOUR SALVATION/DELIVERANCE MOVES ON TO ITS DIVINE DESIGN IN THE REAL LIFE PROCESS. YOU MAKE THIS CHOICE!

C. The Command: It Seriousness

Work-out your own salvation with fear and trembling [not dread, rather concern lest you fail].

Includes:

- Watchfulness – lest we miss His enablement and His best
- Eagerness – to apply divine viewpoint to real life situations
- Consciousness – of His grace provision

II. 2:13 Divine Enablement to Fulfill the Command

Phil. 2:13 *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

A. The Divine Energizer

lit. “**for GOD is the ONE working in you...**”

Θεὸς ἔστιν ὁ ἐνεργῶν ἐν ὑμῶν

“the One energizing you (plural)!”

B. The Direction of the Divine Energy

Two purposes of God working in you; both:

1. “**to WILL**” = to desire, to choose, HIS GOOD PLEASURE
Present Tense Inf. = continuously
2. “**to DO**” = to perform HIS GOOD PLEASURE
Present Tense Inf. = continuously

Principles:

- Willing always precedes doing.
- God is always working for the fulfillment of His will in the world of mankind.

Spiritual Warfare	{	Believers have God the Holy Spirit as their energizer. Unbelievers have Satanic forces as their energizer, Eph. 2:2.
-------------------	---	---

DOCTRINE (Phil. 2:12-13)

1. God wills that believers exercise their volition; i.e., make volitional choices. He energizes us to so do. **HIS WILL IS THAT YOU BE DECISIVE, NOT PASSIVE!**
2. Volition always precedes doing; God energizes believer both to decide (to will) and to perform (to do).
3. God does not seek to break the believer’s will, rather to bring it into conformity with His will.

Support Passages: Eph. 5:15-18; John 7:17; Rom. 12:1-2.

4. God in His sovereignty leaves the majority of our decisions to us. It is His will that we be free to exercise intelligent choice.
5. Apart from scripture, one’s choices in real life situations are normally based upon human viewpoint and foggy relativism.
6. Our choices for divine viewpoint in real life situations are indicative of the working-out of our salvation commanded in Phil. 2:12.
7. The capacity to choose carries with it the responsibility for the choice.
8. Man, saved and unsaved, is free to will, but His will is not free (in the sense that Adam’s was before the Fall). The will of men is the object of continual spiritual warfare in the historical process.