

Reflection Questions: Philippians 2:12-13

For the message, "Working Out What God Is Working In" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on January 22, 2023

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Let's get started...

- What grabs your attention in this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what its saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- How have you tended to think about obedience as a follower of Jesus? Good thing? Bad thing? Confusing thing? Frustrating thing? Futile thing?
- When you hear the Apostle say, "continue to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," what thoughts / questions / concerns come to mind?
- Reflect on the following chart: "Four Ways of Thinking About Obedience"

It's 100% up to me.	"Just do it!"
It's 100% up to God.	"Let go and let God!"
It's 50% me & 50% God.	"God does His part & I do my part!"
It's 100% of God working through 100% of me.	"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!" Philippians 4:13

- When you think of obedience to God in following the teachings of Jesus, which one of the above thoughts has tended to be your paradigm? Why do you think that's the case?
- During our study of this text on Sunday, the pastor said, "God does not call you to do anything in your own strength." Does this make sense to you? If so, how so?
- Also in Sunday's study, the pastor suggested we seek God's power by praying words to the effect, "Lord, enable me...", "Jesus, energize me...", "Spirit, empower me..." How would these prayers help you tap into God's power to obey?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- In 2 Corinthians 5:9, the Apostle Paul said, "We make it our aim to please him" (that is, the Lord).
- How can we encourage each other to make it our aim to please the Lord Jesus Christ? How might we do this without becoming legalistic?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text challenge people's thinking that Christianity is nothing more than pulling yourself up by your bootstraps to become a better person?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____
- _____