

Put God First Part 03

Work out your own Salvation

“12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye 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 which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13 KJV)

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling is the assignment that God is giving to each and every one of us in our life on earth until we reach Heaven. With fear and trembling it mean it is a risky process and we need to be careful how to do it by precisely following and applying what God had said in His Word.

God is so mindful of us when He sent His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life. Only through the work of Jesus on the cross we receive salvation as we read here. **“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)** The salvation of God is His grace for us and is given to us freely that we cannot and we do not need to add anything to it. We receive salvation by His grace that we should keep and cherish by faith. We should persevere in that, so we do not lose the gift and privilege given to us to become God’s children.

God did and put forward His plan of salvation in order for us to live and enjoy life with Him here on earth and later on in the eternal life to come. God gave His Word and He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to save us. Jesus while on earth He lived in obedience to the will of God the Father and to His Word as an example for us to follow. We are saved by Christ’s death on the cross. **“For by grace are ye saved through faith.”** Faith is to believe, and to believe is to obey. Apostle Paul said, **“5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:” (Romans 1:5 KJV)** **So here when we call people to follow Christ we are calling them to live in obedience to God and His Word and that is the faith that we receive and are proclaiming.** We read also in **Romans 16:25-26**, **“25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:” (Romans 16:25-26 KJV)** Apostle Paul here did link the gospel message that he is proclaiming with the statement, **“made known to all nations for the obedience of faith”** **The word “obedience” is linked with faith. Means the faith in Jesus Christ that will bring salvation is the faith that is accompanied by obedience. Therefore, faith that is always obeys is the faith that will bring salvation.**

But nowadays many professing Christians abuse the grace and the mercies of God, and there are also many churches who believe and who teach that once you are saved you are saved, and they do not put obedience to be essential for salvation. That is not correct. I

tell you the truth if you will not continue to obey you are losing your salvation. **Don't think that you are sitting in church will save you. Your salvation is in peril if you will not repent of your sins and start to do His will and serve Him.**

Also many are misled that when they received material blessings (good job, good salary, money, etc.), answered prayers, spiritual and ministerial achievements, they claim that God is approving their sinful lifestyle, and such had become a hindrance for them to come to real repentance and full obedience to God. **Repentance and obedience are needed along the way to keep the salvation that God has lavished on us, and we cannot make it to Heaven without repentance and obedience.**

“11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:11-13 KJV) By faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we receive salvation and that is grace that we should keep and cherish while living on earth a Godly life. Thus our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ should teach us, **“denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”** When we have received Christ, we need to deny ungodliness, deny worldly lust, should be having self-control and not to go and do sin, but to live in a Godly way and doing the righteous things that God wants us to do. **Therefore based on Scripture, when you claim that you receive the grace of God through Christ, and you continue to do wrong, then your salvation is in peril and you are in danger to be lost in hell.**

Jesus Christ is the living Word of God: **“14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14 KJV)** **When we received Christ we received the Word of God. When we say that we hold on to Christ we ought to continue to obey the Word of God to keep our salvation that we received by faith:**

Scriptures imply that believers or even pastors and workers who do the ministry will lose their salvation if they are not living in God’s will and do not do what God’s Word expects from them to do: Let us read the following Scriptures that confirm that.

1. “1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2 KJV) Paul here put a condition, for salvation to flow, only if they keep in memory to what he preached to them about Christ and God’s Word. **Therefore, and in the same way, if you keep keep in memory on what we preached to you about Christ and God’s Word then you will be saved.**

2. “21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21 KJV) James mentioned here that salvation comes when we humbly receive the Word of God that is able to save the souls of man. To “receive” means to believe, recognize, agree to, consent, say yes,

decide to do, admit, acknowledge, allow, put up with, endure, tolerate, bow to, take on, and undertake the Word of God. Therefore you need to put away from your life all kinds of naughtiness, sins and filthiness, and be humble to receive and to apply what you receive teachings from God's Word, and in such way you will be saved.

3. "31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32 KJV) Jesus here mentioned that the true disciples are those who continue in His Word, the Word of God, and in such manner they know the truth and the truth shall set them free, Therefore, and in the same way for you today, if you continue in Christ's Word, that is the Word of God in the Bible, then you are a true disciples of Jesus, and you are saved; you also know the truth and you are set free by the same of Word of Christ and God's Word.

4. "17 Seeing thou hatest instruction, and casteth my words behind thee." (Psalm 50:17 KJV) This Scripture is about those who hated God's instructions and throw behind their back the Word of God and do their own way. Now the question is, Will they be saved? Yes, if they will repent, otherwise no way!

5. "21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. 22 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live. 23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? 24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die." (Ezekiel 18:21-24 KJV) What we learn from this Scripture that the wicked should repent to get saved, and the righteous if he start to do wrong then he will loss his salvation. Salvation is the very precious gift that the Lord God has given us through the work of Jesus on the cross; therefore we ought to be careful how to live in righteousness to work out and keep our salvation with fear and trembling, so we will live with God and forever.

6. "1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works,

lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:1-10 KJV) Before we met God through Jesus Christ our Lord we were dead in sins and transgressions. Now as we come to God we need to live in holiness and not to continue any longer to live in sin. Let us then meditate on the quoted verses in order to be fully instructed how to work out the free salvation with fear and trembling that we received from God through Christ:

A. Not to follow the ways of this world: "1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" (Ephesians 2:1-2 KJV) Before you knew Christ you used to live according to the pattern and the sinful trend of worldly people. After you receive Jesus if you continue living worldly lives, then you are still complying with the devil, the prince of this world and you are still dwelling in the power of darkness. If you follow the ways of this world, you are disobeying God and you must know that your salvation is in peril.

B. Not to gratify the craving of your sinful nature: "3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Ephesians 2:3 KJV) If you have received Christ but still you do not control yourselves, instead you continue to satisfy and follow your sinful desires and thoughts, so you are open to sin and subject to God's wrath; your salvation is in peril if you continue to gratify your earthly cravings, desires and thoughts.

7. "16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:16-21 KJV) What we read is the works of the flesh. If you believe in Christ and you are still getting involve in one or more of these sinful works of the flesh then your salvation is in peril, and you need to repent from all these sinful things to work out once again your salvation. These sinful desires you must completely cut from your life like drinking, smoking, women, watching bad things, stealing, cheating, telling lies, fighting, anger, laziness, etc.

Scriptures imply that believers or even workers who do the ministry will lose their salvation if they are not living in God's will and do not do what God expects them to do:

8. "28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 25:28-30 KJV) In this parable of the talents Jesus spoke of what will be done to the servant who took one talent

and did not do what was expected from him to do: The Lord shall take away what he has given him and give it to the faithful and will cast him into hell. *In the same way if you will not repent of your sin and do what is expected from you to do then the Lord shall take from you what He had given you and you will be thrown in hell if you will not repent and persist in your own wrong ways. God want you to serve Him and use the talents He gave you to go and serve Him, to go and evangelize and make new disciples to follow Christ.*

9. “42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? 43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. 45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; 46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.” (Luke 12:42-46) In the parable of the faithful manager Jesus spoke that He will reward the faithful steward and who is doing what is right by giving him more to manage, but He will punish the unfaithful servant who is doing evil and what is not right in the sight of God. The Scriptures we read will help us to realize that we need to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

The thing you need to understand and agree in regard to your salvation is that God saved us from our sins and transgressions in order that we shall do the good work that God had planned for us to do. God has already prepared the things that He expects us to do, and everything is completely written in the Scriptures. Therefore we need to comply with His instructions and with His good plan that He has ordained for us and not to do our own.

Put in your mind when you refuse to serve God then you are losing your salvation and would end up in hell if you will not repent. When you receive good things from God and material blessings you cannot escape the judgment of God if you will not come and employ all what He gave you in His service.

Many people and even believers try to go ahead of God’s plans and they put forward their wishes, ambitions, their sinful desires and thoughts to replace what God wants them to do. *God did not save us to do what we want; God saved us to do what He wants us to do. Even many of our own plans that we put forward are somewhat look good, but as long as they are not the absolute plan of God for us then they are rejected and need to be put away.*

To work out your own salvation you need to be obedient to the precise plan that God had ordained for you to pursue. Where to live, what to study, your style of life and whom you will marry all is ordained by God and not to do your own. God wants you to live a Godly life and His plan to be example to others and to go forward to evangelize and reach the lost and make new disciples.

When we received salvation from the Lord we receive the promise of eternal life and the other good things we received from God like talents, spiritual gifts, material things, and now we need to work it out with God so that the purpose of our salvation will be achieved. **“13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)** As we receive Christ and get saved the Holy Spirit that we are sealed with will dwell in us and be with us to help us to be changed into a Christ-like character; the way that God wants us and ordained for us to be in order to fulfil His plan for mankind. The following verses affirm that when we received Christ we are sealed with the Holy Spirit:

“13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14 KJV)

“21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” (2 Corinthians 1:21-22 KJV)

The Holy Spirit is God, and as we respond and abide in God’s Word, the Holy Spirit that we are sealed with will reproduce in us the fruit of the Holy Spirit that would reflect the characters of Jesus in our life. **“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23 KJV)** The Holy Spirit will work in us as long as we yield to God’s will. *As you daily read and obey God’s Word you are sanctified and ultimately will be filled with the Holy Spirit and bear the gifts of the Holy Spirit that will enable you to serve the LORD.*

The seal of the Holy Spirit will remain with you until you die or until Jesus will come to take us. If you live for God you are saved but if you are in sin and you die or when Jesus come then you are losing your salvation and end up in hell or left behind.

The Holy Spirit is a deposit guarantee of our inheritance and what is to come or happen to us in Heaven if we continue to abide and walk in the Lord’s instructions. God has set his seal of ownership on us and put His Holy Spirit in our hearts as a deposit. But there are times that we turn to sin, and in such situations the following will take place:

A. The Holy Spirit is grieved or got sad when you sin: “30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30 KJV)

B. The Holy Spirit is envious when you are enticed with worldly things and become friend with the world: “4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?” (James 4:4-5 KJV)

C. The Holy Spirit is insulted when you are deliberately go on sinning: “26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more

sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:26-31 KJV) Here very clear that deliberate sinning will bring the wrath of God on you.

D. The Holy Spirit is lied to when you hide important fact from the church leader who ask you about: "1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. 11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things." (Acts 5:1-11 KJV) Ananias together with his wife Sapphira were believers but God put them to death and they ended up in hell when they lied to Apostle Peter. You need to be careful and aware that God may judge you anytime or at once and you will not get a further chance to repent.

My dear and beloved: You do not know when your life will end and you do not know at which time Jesus is coming, therefore, you need to value the salvation that you have received, by putting God first in every area of your life and accomplishing what God has purposed for you to do and what He expected from you to follow and live on.

Surely God will not be glad that you who are sealed with the Holy Spirit would turn back to live a sinful life. When you persistently live in sin, you would be marked with that sin, and then there will be no place for you in Heaven, as it is written: **"8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."** (Revelation 21:8 KJV)

Jesus also warned us as He said, **"21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."** (Matthew 7:21-23 KJV) Let us serve God by living, keeping, and fulfilling His Word, doing His will and achieving what the Lord is telling us to do to go and evangelize and make new disciples and in the manner that He ordains.

Let us fear God and continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Let us not persist in doing what we want or how we want to do even if it seems good to us, so that we will not lose the promised salvation and the place that God had prepared for us in Heaven.

Let us give up our own will and sinful desire, and follow the plan of God for us to go and make disciples of all nations and baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and to teach them to obey all what Jesus had commanded us to observe in life.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly my sins and what I need to do to repent and to start to do your will.

Confess your sins and renounce them. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins _____, Lord I renounce the following flesh and worldly desire _____. Lord I renounce doing my own will.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from this message. Lord I commit myself to the very plan that you ordained for me to walk through until you come and take me. Lord I commit myself to serve you and to do your will. Lord I commit myself to serve to go and evangelize and make new disciples. Lord I commit myself to allow the fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, humility, self-control, patience, perseverance, long suffering, faith and faithfulness to appear in my life and to go on and serve you in a better way reflecting the character of you Jesus in my life so others may see you in my life. Lord fills me with the Holy Spirit and give me the spiritual gifts to go to evangelize and make new disciple.

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us to build our faith and to put our full trust on you and on your Word. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us. Lord we commit ourselves to walk in your Word. Lord fills us once again with the Holy Spirit and enables us to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God.

Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church and to reach out new people and new places. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Put God First Part 03. Work out your own Salvation. Philippians 2:12-13. Ephesians 2:8-9. Romans 1:5. Romans 16:25-26. Titus 2:11-13. John 1:14. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2. James 1:21. John 8:31-32. Psalm 50:17. Ezekiel 18:21-24. Ephesians 2:1-10. Galatians 5:16-21. Matthew 25:28-30. Luke 12:42-46. Philippians 2:13. Ephesians 1:13-14. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. Galatians 5:22-23. Ephesians 4:30. James 4:4-5. Hebrews 10:26-31. Acts 5:1-11. Revelation 21:8. Matthew 7:21-23.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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