

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU



Philippians 2:5-8

Let this mind be in you,
which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God,
thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
but made Himself of no reputation,
and took upon Him the form of a servant,
and was made in the likeness of men:
and being found in fashion as a man,
He humbled Himself, and became obedient
unto death, even the death of the cross.

Wayne Dailey
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Jesus is in heaven, high and lifted up. He shares such great majesty and glory with His Father - and He had this even before the foundation of the world!

And yet, He came down here to earth that He might become a human being like you and me.

Though Jesus is the eternal Son of God, His eternal spirit came down to be clothed in flesh.

He humbled Himself as a servant in complete obedience to His Father - even to the death of the cross.

The mind of a servant -

When we are born again of the Spirit of God, we become the children of God.

And as such, remember that we're not greater than our Master, but must follow the same pathway of humility - leaving no room to strive to make ourselves of any reputation.

As servants, we must be willing to die out to self and yield completely to the will of God.

Luke 9:23

And He said to them all,
If any man will come after Me,
let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily,
and follow Me.

Follow Me!

We may not be called to physically die on a cross - but we are called to take up our cross daily and follow our Master.

How much of this mind is really in us that was in Christ Jesus? Are our lives taken up with a desire to do the will of God as His was - at any cost?

If we allow this humble mind to be in us, God will be able to use us in a much greater way, because He works in and through humble vessels.

There is no place in the work of God for the proud and lofty. He is looking for those who will humble themselves under His mighty hand.

He is looking for those who, in themselves, realize they are less than nothing - those who know that the only way they can accomplish anything worthwhile for the Lord is for Him to be able to work in and through them.

Philippians 3:3

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

What confidence can we have in the flesh? People might label you as being a good person - but good in whose eyes? Good in the eyes of others.

Mark 10:18

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Jesus, the very Son of God, could do nothing of Himself.

No, Jesus didn't seek to do His own will, but the will of Him who sent Him. He was in total subjection to His Father - [total subjection!](#)
see John 5:30

I Peter 4:11

If any man speak,
let him speak as the oracles of God;
if any man minister,
let him do it as of the ability
which God giveth:
that God in all things may be glorified

Peter was referring to the call of God upon our lives, and the anointing that goes with it. Without God's power and anointing upon our lives, what can we really accomplish for Him?

We can see that it's not a matter of having confidence in the flesh - but rather of having confidence in God.

It's good for us to occasionally find ourselves in a position in which we feel like crawling under the rug. In such a place, we don't feel worthy:

. . . we see our insufficiency!
. . . we feel as though we are falling short!
. . . we don't feel we have the ability
to accomplish the task at hand!

But such a place causes us to rely the more so on the ability which God gives.

God's ability is made manifest in and through us as we humble ourselves before Him.

The sufficiency is not of us. When we realize our complete dependence upon the Lord, then we are in the place where our lives can be used to His honor and glory.

We need to have the mind that was in Jesus if we intend to go all the way, totally dedicated and sold out to the will of God.

Jesus had a mind to go all the way in order to please His Father - even unto the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:9-11

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Humbling Himself in obedience to His Father's will, Jesus was exalted by His Father above every name. God lifted His Son up and put Him in the position wherein every knee would bow and every tongue confess Him to be Lord.

I thank God I've already started to bow my knee to Jesus, acknowledging Him as the Lord of my life, and confessing Him before all men as my Lord and Saviour.

I'm not ashamed of Jesus today - but there was a day when I was ashamed of Him. There was a day when I didn't want to talk about Him.

Yes, there was a day when I would have run if someone wanted to talk to me about Jesus.

But when I turned to Jesus and asked Him to cleanse me from my sins, the darkness rolled from my eyes, and I started to lift Him up as my own personal Lord and Saviour.

Those who die without turning to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour will have no further chance for salvation.

Yet, they, too, will have to acknowledge He is Lord on the dreadful judgment day.

If you haven't yet bowed your knee to Jesus, you will one day. Whether or not you acknowledge Him in this life as your Saviour; whether or not your surrender to Him and start to serve Him in this life - one day your tongue will confess that He is Lord.

Even the atheists will one day bow their knee. Even they will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.

They can say there is no God all they want to. They may, in their dying moments, still deny His existence.

But at the judgment, they will have to acknowledge the truth - though it will be too late then to make things right and to get saved.

They won't be able to deny His existence when He is seated right before them on the judgment seat. What a horrible day that will be for those who have spurned the gospel and mocked the truth!

Though they will be forced to bow and acknowledge Him, it will be of no benefit to them. It won't bring them salvation. It won't change their eternal judgment - no, it will be too late.

I thank God we have opportunity in this life to surrender.

Yes, we have the opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour, and gain the assurance of having eternal life.

We have the opportunity to receive Him into our hearts, to love and serve Him.

II Corinthians 6:2b

... Behold, now is the accepted time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.

If you haven't yet come to Jesus and received Him into your life as Lord and Saviour, do so now - while there is time.

Philippians 2:12

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.

Work out your own salvation -

I like the way Paul wrote to this church in his absence. As apostle to the Philippian church, he was pleased at how well they had followed his instructions.

They were willing - willing to be obedient.

Do you have that type of a report?

Do you always live by the Word of God,
- always? or just when you feel like it.

You need to maintain such a report in everyday life, in everyday trials and testings.

Work out - not for! This doesn't tell us to work for our salvation, but to work out our salvation. This working is so that we might maintain the salvation which we received through faith in Jesus Christ.

There are many who are striving to work their way into the kingdom of God. Many cults, under the guise of Christianity, are attempting to work to receive salvation, sincerely believing works will save them.

But works won't get us to heaven. It doesn't matter how much good we have done.

Our works **cannot** save us.

It took God's Son coming all the way from heaven to shed His blood on Calvary's cross.

If souls could be saved by works, then that means that Jesus suffered in vain.

What does it mean, then, to work out our salvation with fear and trembling?

We are responsible in caring for our own soul. We can't expect someone else to maintain our spiritual lives for us.

Nobody is going to heaven by letting someone else do their praying for them, by having somebody else feed on the Word for them.

We must each maintain our own prayer life.

That's our responsibility - a part of working out our own salvation.

If we don't make it to heaven, we'll have nobody to blame but ourselves.

Oh, some might blame their church: *My pastor never told me about the things of God.*

If that's the case, then why sit there week after week, listening to dead messages? Search out the truth for yourself.

Nobody can keep us out of trouble but ourselves. If we walk uprightly, it's because we purposed in our hearts to do so.

In working out our own salvation, we can't allow anything to creep in that will rob us of everlasting life. We can't allow ourselves to yield to things which God has forbidden.

Now, Paul exhorted us to work out our own salvation **with fear and trembling**. We need the fear of God in our hearts and souls - knowing our eternal destiny is at stake, realizing we'll lose out if we allow ourselves to drift spiritually.

Many would cease living a hypocritical life if they only began to have a godly fear.

Matthew 23:27 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.**

Matthew 23 could be called **the hypocrites chapter**

Jesus really blasted out the hypocrites in this chapter. His words were pointed. Time after time, we find Him saying, **Woe unto you scribes, Pharisees, and hypocrites!**

We don't want to be hypocritical. We want to make heaven our home. And if we really want to make it to heaven, we must obey God's Word, working out our own salvation:

- . . . **maintaining a prayer life**
- . . . **living a consistent, upright Christian life**
- . . . **getting into the Word for ourselves and letting It live in us.**

Yes, we must purpose to go all the way in our Christian experience.

If we backslide over some problem or trial, it will only be because we neglected to rise up to face it squarely and seek the Lord for victory.

Many backslide because they're too slothful to make any effort to press into God.

Condemnation -

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

What causes us to be condemned when we do something wrong?

Condemnation generally comes because God has given us a conscience. And we ought to thank God we have a conscience.

When we do wrong, our conscience is what smites us to warn us that we shouldn't have done what we did.

When we have a godly conscience, we find that if we start to do the things we used to do, it deeply affects us.

Why does a lie detector reveal when someone isn't telling the truth? How can a mere machine tell when someone is lying?

His conscience gave him away. Every time he tries to override his conscience, it reacts.

It's wonderful to have a conscience to help us each day, pointing out the evil and the good.

Our conscience causes guilt when we're tempted to do wrong - a warning to stop and not proceed any further on that pathway.

So you see, our conscience is given us to aid in working out our own salvation

I Timothy 4:2

Speaking lies in hypocrisy;
having their conscience seared
with a hot iron

A warning!

It is possible to take that God-given mechanism called a conscience, and defile it - to where it won't work any more.

This is why some people can commit such horrible crimes without any sense of guilt, such as slashing someone up with a knife just for the fun of seeing the blood spill.

Could you do such a thing? Not if you have a godly conscience. You'd be condemned just to think about it - leave alone going ahead and doing it.

Such folks have seared their conscience - [to where it doesn't matter any more.](#)

They have no more sense of condemnation. They have gone contrary to the warning of their conscience so often that they seared it out of commission.

Their hearts have been hardened to where they can tell you a lie, even shedding real tears to convince you they're telling the truth.

They could murder their own grandmother without a second thought! Their attitude is, *So what?*

Now, we who are saved have an added conscience. We don't just have the conscience that we were born with - but we also have the conscience of the Holy Spirit residing within.

With the Holy Spirit's conscience, we are able to know what is displeasing to God. The Spirit warns us ahead of time, that we might be kept on the straight and narrow pathway.

Listen, if you proceed to do something, and you feel the nudging of the Holy Spirit - stop right there!

The Holy Spirit's conscience is able to keep you in the center of God's will - if you yield to His leadings.

In making decisions which aren't evil, but yet aren't the will of God for your life, the Holy Spirit is able to deal and warn you not to go ahead to do it.

What's a conscience for?

What is the urging of the Holy Spirit for?
What are His dealings for?

In working out our salvation, we must cooperate with both our conscience, and that of the Holy Spirit.

Many have fear and trembling for a season - but soon give into their own will, and go contrary to their conscience - overriding the will of God that they might take up their own will.

You may face situations when God deals with you whether or not you should do something - and you will have to stop and work that out for yourself.

Search it out. Express to the Lord that you don't want to miss His will. You don't want to get out of the will of God.

Look at what happened to Jonah when he got out of God's will. Who knows what might happen if we were to go contrary to God's will for our lives. Who knows how miserable life might become for us?

When it's in our hearts to obey God, we're capable of working out our own problems in light of the fear of God. When we sense that sharp feeling in our hearts, we will pay attention to what God is trying to tell us - and not override it, knowing it is God's way of getting our attention and warning us.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you
both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

This is a beautiful verse. What is God doing in you? What is He doing through all the trials and tests through which He puts you? What is His function while you're working out your salvation?

God said this whole process was His working in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. He wants you to do His pleasure - obeying Him from your heart.

Nothing is more pleasing to Him than obedience from the heart.

When we don't obey God in some area of our lives, He has to work to bring us to the place where we are willing.

Sometimes God is busy working in us to do His will - and other times He is busy working to make us willing to do His will.

Now, God isn't going to grab you by the neck and yell, *Do this! Do that!* No. He puts it in your heart to want to do His will because you want to do it -
not because you have to do it.

God, I'll do whatever You want me to do. I'll be whatever You want me to be. God, I'll go wherever You want me to go.

When you can pray like that from your heart, it is evident that God is at work in you to will of His good pleasure - and that is a victory of victories!

Not everyone has come to that place. For many, as soon as they find out that God expects of them something contrary to their old flesh, they refuse to budge.

It's not in them, yet, to obey from the heart.

We need to be in the place where we can say, *Whatever You want, Lord.*

Whatever He may ask of you should be in your heart before you hear it. Be ready and willing, waiting to respond when He calls.

Philippians 2:14

**Do all things
without murmurings and disputings**

Do you ever murmur or complain? We have a commandment here, as part of working out our own salvation, not to do anything with murmurings or disputings. We shouldn't be spending time in disagreements.

I'd do things differently if I had my way!
That's the center of all murmurings and disputing: | - | - |.

When you don't allow the mind of the Lord to be in you - then self takes control.

Do you want to know something?

It isn't what you think that really matters: it's *what thus saith the Lord* - what He wants is what counts.

Even in your home, you should do all things without murmuring or disputing.

You need to keep the mind of the Lord, and do all to His honor and glory - even the small, everyday things.

Ephesians 4:3

**Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.**

As we read further in Philippians, we find the reason for doing what we have been told to do thus far:

Philippians 2:15

That ye may be blameless and harmless,
the sons of God, without rebuke,
in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,
among whom ye shine as lights in the world

A child of God should be blameless, without fault. In other words, there should be nothing in his life that someone can hold against him.

Blameless,
harmless,
and
without rebuke.

When we live within the limits of these three words, we are really living the Christian life - and our lives are glorifying God in this wicked world.

Philippians 2:16

Holding forth the word of life;
that I may rejoice in the day of Christ,
that I have not run in vain,
neither laboured in vain.

Here the apostle was telling his children that the kind of lives they were living gave him the assurance his labour had not been bestowed on them in vain. These saints were really living what had been preached to them.

Now, what about you? Are you fully working out your own salvation? Are you growing up in the Lord, to where you can handle your own problems and trials?

God doesn't want us to be ever dependent on someone else to lead us around. We need to become spiritual adults, instead of wanting to be babied all the time.

God gives us enough wisdom and spiritual understanding that we might stand - and He adds more as we need it.

There is always room for growth in our Christian experience. We can learn something new nearly every day.

There is no end to the knowledge and wisdom of God. We can ever be learning at His feet.

We haven't arrived

- but we are going on -

Isaiah 35:8

And an highway shall be there, and a way,
and it shall be called The way of holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it;
but it shall be for those:
the wayfaring men, though fools,
shall not err therein.
No lion shall be there,
nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon,
it shall not be found there;
but the redeemed shall walk there:
and the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with songs
and everlasting joy upon their heads:
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

