

# Fear and Trembling

[therefore]

Philippians 2.12-13

Don't miss this:

[tension]

Work out your salvation

Two levels:

God works in you

[fear and trembling]

## Going Deeper—Living it Out

It's easy to lose the communal aspect of this letter. Why is it so important to remember that the instructions that Paul gives are instructions for a community as well as for individuals?

Why is individualism often more attractive than community?

When Paul says to "work out your salvation" what do you think that looks like?

If salvation in this sense describes a sense of wholeness, what would wholeness look like for a community?

Why is that so difficult?

Describe how the two ideas of us working out our salvation and God working it in us work together.

Which side do you lean a little more toward—trying to do it all yourself, or just sitting back and letting God do everything? Why?

[putting it together]

Together

Humility

Grace

## Philippians: Companions in Grace

God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.  
-Martin Luther

[big questions]

Who are you "working out your salvation" with?

What causes you to lose sight of the sense of doing life together?

What do you need to trust that God will work out in all of us? How will you work toward this with others?

## Going Deeper—Living it Out

Why is a mindset of humility so important to seeing this happen?

What are some ways that pride divides us?

Once again, it all comes down to grace. How have you seen God's grace working in you and in our community?

How do you need to respond to live more fully in this?

### MEMORIZE THIS!

**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, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.**

-Philippians 2.12-13 (NIV)