

Fear and Trembling: Philippians 2.12-13
[Going Deeper]

Read Philippians 2.12-13

Paul says to "work out your salvation." What do you think that means?

It's important to recognize the importance of the idea of this being applied to community. What are some ways that your faith has grown as a result of working out salvation in community?

God works through us in a lot of ways, it's important to recognize those things and celebrate them. How have others seen God working in you?

How have you been encouraged or challenged by how God is working in others? [Why don't you let them know this week via a phone call, an email or a note!]

We are meant to work our salvation out together, who are the people that you work out your salvation with?

When a group of people are working out their salvation together, what impact do you think that has on everyone around them?

Read Proverbs 3.5-6

Sometimes serving God can get in the way of our knowing God—somehow, some way, our focus shifts from partnership with God to just trying to get things done. Maybe part of the idea of "fear and trembling" is acknowledging when we're tempted to work out our salvation on our own, in our own power. What are some ways that you try to do this, to work out your salvation on your own, in your own power?

What keeps us from being able to acknowledge our wrongs to each other?

What impact does acknowledging our wrongs to each other have on our growth together?

What role do you think humility plays in our working out salvation together?

What prevents you from exercising humility and pursuing the kind of community that we have been talking about?

Consider this thought from Thomas A. Kempis: "Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be." How does recognizing this shape the way we would live out Philippians 2.12-13?

Describe some ways that we could help each other work out our salvation, recognizing that it is God who does the work?

Read Galatians 6.9-10 and Hebrews 10.23-25

How do these inform how we would work out our salvation together?

Examine your life for a moment. What steps do you need to take to more fully work out your salvation with others and in doing so, celebrate the grace of God working in you?