

Philippians – Week 2 – Life Change – Bible Study Helps

Title: Life Change: God's Ongoing Work in Believers

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the transformative power of salvation and God's continuous work in the lives of believers. It emphasizes that from the moment of salvation, God begins a good work in each Christian, promising to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ's return. The message encourages believers to trust in God's faithfulness, yield to His molding process, and actively participate in their spiritual growth through prayer, Bible study, and obedience.

Key Points:

- Salvation and spiritual growth begin with God
- God is actively working in believers' lives to make them more like Christ
- Christians should be growing in love, knowledge, and spiritual discernment
- God promises to complete His work in believers until they see Jesus face to face
- Believers should trust God's process even when growth seems slow or challenging
- Daily surrender and yielding to God are crucial for spiritual transformation

Scripture Reference:

- Philippians 1:6-11

Stories:

- The analogy of a potter molding clay is used to illustrate God's work in shaping believers
- Personal anecdotes about early days as a Christian and experiences in ministry
- References to experiences with singles ministry and challenging pastoral situations

Philippians – Week 2 – Life Change – Bible Study Helps

Discipleship and Small Group Guide: Life Change - Philippians 1:6-11

Key Takeaways:

1. God begins a good work in believers at the moment of salvation and promises to complete it.
2. God is actively working in believers' lives to make them more like Christ.
3. Spiritual growth is a process that involves yielding to God and His Word.
4. The ultimate goal is to be conformed to the image of Christ when we see Him face to face.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentioned that salvation is just the beginning for the born-again Christian. How has your life changed since you trusted Christ as your Savior?
2. Philippians 1:6 says, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." How does this promise encourage you in your spiritual journey?
3. The sermon emphasized that God is like a potter, and we are the clay. How can we better yield to God's molding in our lives?
4. Discuss a time when you felt God was actively working in your life to make you more like Christ. What was that experience like?
5. The sermon mentioned that our love should be abounding more and more as we grow spiritually. In what ways can we practically demonstrate increasing love in our daily lives?
6. How can we maintain a balance between actively working on our spiritual growth and trusting God to complete His work in us?
7. The sermon touched on the importance of growing in knowledge and judgment. How can we cultivate better spiritual discernment in today's world?

Philippians – Week 2 – Life Change – Bible Study Helps

8. Reflect on the concept of being "sincere and without offense" (Philippians 1:10). What challenges do you face in living out this principle?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Surrender: Commit to starting each day by surrendering control to God, acknowledging Him as the potter in your life.

2. Bible Study: Choose a passage from the Gospels and spend time this week studying Jesus' character. Reflect on how you can emulate His qualities.

3. Love in Action: Identify one person in your life who may be difficult to love. Pray for them daily and look for practical ways to show them Christ-like love this week.

4. Spiritual Growth Assessment: Take some time to reflect on your spiritual growth over the past year. Write down areas where you've seen progress and areas where you'd like to grow more.

5. Accountability: Partner with someone in the group to check in regularly about your spiritual growth and areas where you're seeking to be more like Christ.

6. Gratitude Journal: Start a daily gratitude journal, focusing on how you see God working in your life to make you more like Christ.

7. Service Opportunity: Look for a way to serve in your church or community this week, focusing on how this service can help you grow in Christ-likeness.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for beginning a good work in us and for your promise to complete it. Help us to yield to your molding, to grow in love and knowledge, and to become more like Christ each day. Give us the strength to live sincere lives that don't cause others to stumble. We trust in your faithfulness to transform us until we see you face to face. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Philippians – Week 2 – Life Change – Bible Study Helps

Discipleship Questions

How has God's work in your life changed you since the day of your salvation, and in what areas do you still need growth?

What does it mean to be 'the clay' in God's hands, and how can we better yield to His molding process in our daily lives?

How does the concept of God as the potter challenge our desire for control in our spiritual journey?

In what ways have you experienced God's patience and persistence in your spiritual growth, even when you've resisted change?

How can we balance the tension between actively working out our salvation and trusting in God's promise to complete His work in us?

What practical steps can we take to increase our love, knowledge, and spiritual discernment as mentioned in Philippians 1:9-10?

How does the promise of becoming like Christ when we see Him face to face impact how we live our lives now?

In what ways might our spiritual growth be hindered by 'writing off' others or giving up on them too quickly?

How can we cultivate a sincere faith and live 'without offense' in a world that often opposes Christian values?

What does it mean to be 'filled with the fruits of righteousness', and how can we pursue this in our daily lives?

Philippians – Week 2 – Life Change – Bible Study Helps

A 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide

Day 1: God's Transforming Work

Reading: Philippians 1:6, Ephesians 2:8-10

Devotional: God's promise to complete the good work He began in us is a powerful reminder of His unfailing love and commitment to our spiritual growth. Just as a potter shapes clay with purpose and care, God is molding us into the image of Christ. Reflect on how God has been working in your life since the day of your salvation. What changes have you noticed? How has your character been transformed? Remember, you are God's workmanship, created for good works that He prepared in advance. Today, surrender yourself anew to the Potter's hands, trusting that He will continue to shape you for His glory.

Day 2: Abounding in Love

Reading: Philippians 1:9-11, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Devotional: As we grow in Christ, our capacity to love should increase. The Apostle Paul prayed for the Philippians' love to abound more and more. This love isn't just an emotion, but a Christ-like attitude that impacts how we treat others and make decisions. Consider how your love for God and others has grown since you became a believer. Are there areas where you need to show more patience, kindness, or selflessness? Ask God to help your love abound in knowledge and depth of insight, so you can discern what is best and live a life that brings glory to Him.

Day 3: Growing in Spiritual Discernment

Reading: Philippians 1:10, Hebrews 5:14

Devotional: Spiritual growth involves developing the ability to discern between good and evil, right and wrong. As we mature in faith, we should become better at making godly decisions and avoiding things that could cause us or others to stumble. Reflect on your decision-making process. How often do you seek God's wisdom before acting? Are you becoming more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's guidance? Today, commit to growing in discernment by regularly studying God's Word, praying for wisdom, and surrounding yourself with mature believers who can offer godly counsel.

Philippians – Week 2 – Life Change – Bible Study Helps

Day 4: Bearing Fruit of Righteousness

Reading: Philippians 1:11, Galatians 5:22-23

Devotional: A life transformed by Christ should bear visible fruit. The fruits of righteousness are evidence of God's work in us, bringing glory and praise to Him. These fruits include love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Examine your life for these fruits. Which ones are abundant? Which ones need more cultivation? Remember, these fruits are not produced by our own efforts, but through our connection to Christ. Today, focus on abiding in Him, allowing His life to flow through you and produce lasting fruit.

Day 5: Confidence in God's Faithfulness

Reading: Philippians 1:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Devotional: Our spiritual journey is not always smooth. There are times when we may feel weak, unworthy, or discouraged. But we can take heart in God's promise to complete the work He began in us. He is faithful, and He will do it. This assurance should give us confidence to press on, even in difficult times. Reflect on past experiences where God has proven His faithfulness in your life. How can these memories encourage you in your current circumstances? Today, reaffirm your trust in God's faithfulness, knowing that He who called you will bring you through to completion when Christ returns.