



## Change is Possible OUT+IN=SHINE

### 1. Work out your salvation

### 2. For God works in you

### 3. So Shine

## Change is Possible

On Sunday we looked at the biblical inspiration for Discipleship by considering that change is possible and sustainable. We looked at the formula OUT+IN=SHINE.

### Read

- **Philippians 2.12-16**

### 1. Work OUT your salvation

#### What does this mean?

- Doesn't mean work out you own salvation justification comes from God through the gift of faith
- Also doesn't mean working out your salvation intellectually
- In Phil 1:37 it shows us we must ensure that our manner of life is worthy and appropriate in every aspect.
- Like yeast in the dough or food colouring the integrity of our walk with Jesus needs to be worked into the whole mass before it has an impact.
- Work out righteousness and blessing in your life that is worth of your salvation
- 2 Peter make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue (character). BE DILEGIENT to confirm and prove the way PRACTISE these qualities.

#### It is our response to what God has done in us

- Considering what God has done for us then this is our response.
- We are called to work out and do something – take responsibility to work out your own salvation. Living it out personally.
- Paul warns us against a tendency to live off of the past or other people's fruitfulness

#### Fear and trembling

- Can't just switch it on or off – it needs to be consistently something we work out with fear and trembling.
- This doesn't mean we have to be scared – it means we have appropriate reverence and respect in the manner Jesus demonstrated by His humility and servant heart earlier in Philippians.
- With Whitstable Community Church – the discipleship groups are our response to help people work out their salvation.
- You might feel under pressure here – but it's no different to someone who is 35 finding out they have heart age of 60 – they would do something to ensure their heart became healthier.

### 2. For it is God that works IN you

#### We have access to the power of God to help us do this

- It is God's power that works in us. In 2 Cor 3:18 the word says that we are all being transformed from one degree of glory to another.
- This is amazing news so why didn't Paul just say that in the first place instead of putting pressure on us.



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- Surely, I can just rest in the fact that its God's work in me so I can just rest back and do nothing?
- By no means. We have a role – albeit not a primary role – to participate, and cooperate in fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

#### **We are like newbie dancers on Strictly needing a professional to guide us**

- An illustration of this can be found if you were suddenly invited onto Strictly Dancing. The moment you were appointed onto the programme you would be called one of the shows dancers – yet you might not have a clue about dancing. You are then given a professional dancer who hones you, trains you and guides you step by step. That professional leads you one step at a time from knowing nothing about dancing to being able to dance properly. You couldn't do this by just watching YouTube videos.
- In v13 we see that God loves to will and to work his good pleasure in us. God loves to do this inner transformation in our lives. He is like a potter with clay.

#### **Do all this without grumbling**

- Let's be real though we don't always receive this great news with joy. Paul says do all things without grumbling
- Allowing God IN without moaning is a theme that is picked up in Hebrew 12:5-11. Don't grow weary of discipline. Share in His holiness and His delight to do us good.
- This is such a key aspect of us growing as a disciple – accepting that letting God transform us is for our own good

#### **Do we trust God?**

- I wanted to treat my children to a McFlurry for dessert as a reward but my daughter wanted her normal helping of fruit for tea.
- However much I tried to convince her that I had something far better for her she would not stop asking for fruit. I asked her do you trust that dad has got something better for you. Her answer was NO!
- When I finally told them, we were going to get a McFlurry they were delighted.
- We can be like this with God we need to give up some habitual ways to make way for God surprising and amazing love for us.

#### **An unfinished building project**

- When I used to go to prayer meeting in Ipswich, I used to drive past tall unfinished towers – they were exposed shells.
- We can feel like this – incomplete and perhaps vulnerable – but He who starts a good work in us will complete it – if we cooperate with Him.



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### Live out who you are

- In v14 it describes life as a disciple of one being blameless and innocent
- If you respond first by practicing your dance with the Holy Spirit and the let Gods power transform you then you will shine
- You will start to see and believe the truth of who you are in Christ likeness
- The world will see your light – you will shine like a bright light in a dark world

### Our Christ likeness directly impacts our witness

- With a deliberate model of discipleship, we see OUT+IN=SHINE
- At Christmas we went as a family to Beltinge to see a close famed for amazing Christmas lights. It took a while to find and at first as we went down the road, we were less than impressed. But when we turned a corner and found the close the view was astounding. Every single light was decked out with incredible lights.
- What would it mean for Whitstable if people began to hear that we were the light of the gospel because it is bright in our lives?
- The world sees no reason to follow an invisible God when it sees no difference in the way we live our lives compared to our neighbors who don't know Jesus.

### In reality we have this light in us – we just have to shine it

- How brightly does it shine?
- In Boys Brigade I had a brass belt that had to be inspected weekly to see how brightly it shone.
- Sometimes I couldn't be bothered to polish it – but the brass belt never lost its ability to shine – I just had to choose to polish it
- There is this amazing product called Brasso that would just clear the grime and dirt with a bit of elbow grease.
- Discipleship is the Brasso that we need to work into every aspect of our life

**Work Out our salvation as God works IN our lives so that we may SHINE**