

Philippians 1:12 frees us to be aggressive and strategic in our battle against sin—the sins alluded to by Paul throughout this epistle, and all the other besetting sins that you and I face on a regular basis. Benjamin Franklin is attributed with the proverb, “Failing to plan is planning to fail,” and this lesson’s consideration of sanctification would agree. We must, with “continuous, sustained, strenuous effort,” “work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, for God is the One working in us both the willing and working for the sake of His good pleasure.”

#### **APPLICATION: AN ILLUSTRATION**

#### **CONCLUSION**

With our understanding of this passage both compelling us to fight sin and convincing us that it will be effective, we have great reason to “chase joy” in the long battle of sanctification, even as is the theme of this letter.

<b>Book:</b>	<i>Philippians</i>
<b>Series:</b>	<i>Rejoice in the Lord!</i>
<b>Lesson 8:</b>	<i>Acting the Miracle: God’s Part and Our Part in Sanctification</i>
<b>Text:</b>	Philippians 2:12-13
<b>Date:</b>	2013 — October 27 (SF); November 3 (ABF)
<b>Next Lesson:</b>	Philippians 2:14-18

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Paul wrote in Philippians 1:27, “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.” That verse reminds us that there is a “gospel walk.” There is a way of life that is (or is not) “in step with the truth of the gospel” (Galatians 2:14). The reason for this is that the gospel is “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16), not only from sin’s penalty (justification), but also from sin’s power and practice (sanctification). So, the “gospel walk” is living in such a way that activates and enjoys the gospel’s power to rescue from sin’s ongoing influence.

Thus, a tension appears in sanctification, between my part (letting my manner of life be worthy) and God’s part (accomplishing the power of the gospel within me). Our passage (and many others) addresses that tension and teaches us that sanctification is, what Jim Berg calls, “a cooperative venture between God and man.”

The purpose of this lesson is to delve a little bit deeper into this mysterious cooperation, to fully understand our part in it, and to recognize how that applies to the areas already addressed by Paul in this epistle.

#### **CANCELLATION FIRST, THEN CONQUERING**

## MY EMPOWERED WILL

“The way the cross becomes effective in my conquering cancelled sin is by \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ to oppose sin in my life.”

Consider some key passages that illustrate how our wills have been empowered to conquer sin due to the cancellation of such sin at the cross.

“The link between the cross and my conquered sin is a \_\_\_\_\_ empowered will.”

## “GOSPEL VIGILANCE”

“God intends that part of our experience of sanctification be the conscious, \_\_\_\_\_ opposition to specific sins in our lives.” This passage call us to a “gospel \_\_\_\_\_”—what Peter O’Brien calls a “continuous, sustained, \_\_\_\_\_ effort” against besetting sin.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

**1. Man’s part in sanctification (v. 12)**

**2. God’s part in sanctification (v. 13)**

## APPLICATION: A REVIEW

In its context within this book, these two verses come at an appropriate time. Paul has given several commands, both expressed and implied, many of which are rather tough to obey and really go against the grain of how we are wired. To hope for “naturally arising” victory when we are tempted in these areas is unwise. Instead, Paul here encourages us, “Work out your salvation in those areas. Engage with continuous, sustained, strenuous effort to see the fruits of Jesus Christ characterize these areas.”

## APPLICATION: A MODEL

Elsewhere, Paul provides a striking model for us (cf. 1 Corinthians 9:27). But for our purposes here, we’ll simply consider a contemporary example and a biblical format.

**1. A contemporary example**

A.N.T.H.E.M.

**2. A biblical format**

The Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)