**Philippians 2:12-13** (NIV) ...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, [13] for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

**Philippians 2:12-13** (NLT) ... Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. [13] For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

\*\*\*\*I have found the "work out your salvation" phrase challenging. What does Paul really mean? Ryrie makes it clear in his study notes that we are not working to earn our salvation but actually working to live it out effectively in our daily lives. The good news is that we are saved by God's gift of grace and we are sustained and empowered by His grace as well. The New Living Translation makes it clear that God is the one who gives us "the desire" to obey and then gives us "the power" to follow through and do what He has asked.

**Life Application Notes:** "What do we do when we don't feel like obeying? God has not left us alone in our struggles to do his will. ...God helps us want to obey him and then gives us the power to do what he wants. The secret to a changed life is to submit to God's control and let him work. Next time, ask God to help you want to do his will."

**PRAYER:** Lord, God thank you that as I submit to You on a daily basis You give me all the strength and power I need to do those things which honor and please You. Help me Lord God to desire even more to do Your Will.

Pastor Mark Kieft