

“Reaching Out Together”

Therefore, 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 in order to fulfill his good purpose.¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing,¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain.¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 2:12-18

Main Idea: Followers of Jesus are better together. We were made for community, and we need each other. We worship, serve, and grow better together. We reach out better together.

The Example of Jesus:

Solitude → **Community** → **Outreach**

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles.....¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon,¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases.

Luke 6:12-18

1. Keep Growing With Jesus. (Solitude)

Therefore, 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. *Philippians 2:12*

a. God wants us to grow.

God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. *Ephesians 4:15 MSG*

b. Growth involves discomfort.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. *John 15:1-2*

2. Recognize the work of God in each other. (Community)

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. *Philippians 2:13*

a. God is working His plan.

Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails. *Proverbs 19:21*

b. We are God's children.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! *1 John 3:1*

3. Look for opportunities to share Jesus. (Outreach)

So that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky. *Philippians 2:15*

a. Tell about all that God does.

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done. *Psalms 9:1*

b. Invite others to join.

The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, “We’ve found the Messiah.” He immediately led him to Jesus. *John 1:41 MSG*

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