

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians chapter 2 verse 12

All this time I've been suggesting that salvation is something that God does in us, and here's this verse waiting to trip me up. Do I now have to say that I am responsible for my own salvation?

Unsurprisingly, no. The verse following this one continues “For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.”

The journey towards and in faith is no light and easy thing. When we come to faith in the first place, although Jesus has done all the work necessary for us to be saved, we still need to respond in faith, and to get there is itself a journey.

Then, after we are saved, although the bible clearly tells us that we are 'God's work of art', it is indisputable that we are engaged in a cooperative endeavour as we grow in faith. When we are saved, it is a mistake to think that there is nothing more to be done. Our salvation is something that has to be worked out. We have the rest of our lives to discover what it means and to bring our lives into line with what God wants for us.

“With fear and trembling”? Yes, because the one who is working in us is God, the almighty creator of the universe. It's true that we can approach his throne of grace with confidence, but without the intercession of Christ on our behalf we would not be able to stand before him at all. We do well not to take the privilege lightly.

Working out our salvation is a serious thing. Under the power and guidance of God himself we are dealing with the damaging effects of sin on our lives, and we are standing in a battle against forces within us, forces in the world and spiritual forces, all of which try to drag us back.

May God cause each one of us to take more seriously our part in the working out of our own salvation.

Prayer.

Father, in Jesus I have been set free from the eternal consequences of sin. But I know that in this world there is still work to do in my if I am to be conformed to the image of Christ. Please help me to be guided and led by you in doing my part in this work, so that your name might be glorified in me. In Jesus' name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*