



PRAY FIRST - DAILY DEVOTIONAL

DAY 10

Yesterday we learned that if we are going to become holy like God is holy, we must partner our commitment and discipline with God's empowering encouragement. We read Paul's words in **Philippians 2:12-13**, "***Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.***"

Let's dig a little deeper into this truth today.

When Paul tells us to "*work hard to show the results of our salvation*," he continues his thought by telling us how to work it out. He says, "*obeying God with deep reverence and fear.*" Paul doesn't mean we work out our salvation with a sense of nervous anxiety, not knowing whether or not it's going to be good enough for God. This phrase means we are to have a humble attitude of dependence. I play a role in this, but I don't control it. In life, there are some things that I can control. I can make a phone call, drive a car, run an errand. I can control those things.

Then there are things I can do nothing about, like the weather. I can't change it; only God can. Or the Toronto Maple Leafs. I can't do anything about them. Only God can help the Leafs.

Let me explain it another way. Think about going to sleep.

If you've ever been around kids, you know that when they reach a certain age, there's often a tussle. Parents will say, "*Go to sleep.*" The child responds, "I can't." And, of course, you can't make yourself go to sleep the way that you can make a phone call. But parents will assure their kids that they can do certain things to help them sleep. You can get in a dark room, lay down on a soft mattress, turn out the lights, listen to a Main Street Sermon, and sleep will come. You can't control it, but you're not helpless. You can open yourselves up to it, and then it comes.

Think about sanctification the same way. Think for a minute about the difference between a speedboat and a sailboat. In the speedboat, I'm in control. I start the engine. I control the speed. I go wherever I want to go. Sailing is a different story. When I'm sailing, I'm not passive. I have a definite role to play. I hoist the sails. I steer with the rudder and so on, but I am utterly dependent on the wind.

There is no room for pride on a sailboat or the false idea that I'm in control because I'm dead in the water if the wind doesn't blow. I'm not going anywhere. But, on the other hand, when the wind blows, amazing things can happen.

Jesus had this to say about the spiritual life, "***The wind blows where it chooses. You hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone born of the Spirit.***" (John 3:8)

The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is powerful, mysterious, and awesome, and you can't control it. You can't manufacture it. It's not about coming up with a program that's got predictable results. However, we are also not passive. It's worth your greatest efforts to catch the wind of the Spirit, to be sanctified by God, and to be made holy.

Will you?

READ: Read Romans 8:1-17

JOURNAL (Reflect):

- Lord, is there anything I am trying to control in my life that you want me to give up control of?
- Lord, your Word tells me that I am your child. So when you look at me and my heart, what word or words do you want to encourage me with? (Listen and write down what you hear Him say).

PRAY:

- Ask God to fill you with a fresh work of the Holy Spirit today. Ask Him to make you aware of the Holy Spirit's presence.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will prompt you to think and act in holy ways throughout the day. When you sense His prompting, obey and thank Him.