

His Hidden Work in You

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I. Introduction.

A. Much of the Christian life is God working in you. (Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; Hebrews 13:21)

B. Often, the greatest changes that come in our lives come through God's work in our heart, even if we are practicing spiritual disciplines.

II. God is sovereign and we are not.

A. We know this in our heads, but we do not know this in our hearts or in our actions. (James 4:13-15)

B. This does not mean that we don't make plans. It means we factor God's will into our plans.

C. God is in control of the good and the bad times in our lives. (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14; Lamentations 3:37-38; Romans 8:28)

III. Christ is righteous and we are not.

A. Our religious attainments do not earn righteousness, but rather we receive Christ's righteousness as a gift. (Philippians 3:7ff)

1. We know this in regards to salvation, but then we tend to believe that God's acceptance and His favor after that rely on our performance.

B. Our whole Christian life depends upon faith in Christ's righteousness to our credit. Our very best works are acceptable to God only on the basis of Christ's righteousness, not our own credit. (Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:5)

IV. Christ is Lord and we are not.

A. We know that in regard to our possessions, our families, our future plans, etc. but this also applies to our everyday lives and plans. We try to push for what we want in the day to day things.

V. God is working in us to make us perfect and He will complete His work. (Hebrews 12:22)

Application questions:

1. Have you ever had an experience that you looked back on and realized that God was working behind the scenes in ways you didn't realize? How does that experience give you hope?

2. Jerry states in this message that God is in control of the good and the bad times of our lives. How does that knowledge impact your perspective on your current circumstances?

3. When you look at the motivation behind your Christian works, is there fear of God's rejection? How about guilt or a need to keep His favor? How can you trust more in the righteousness that God has given you through Christ?
