

# Philippians – Above the Circumstances!

## Phil 2:12-13 *Stay On The Path!*

- You can't look in both directions at the same time.
- We seem inevitably drawn to one side or the other.
- God has called us to follow this path – so just stay on it!

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## The Context

*Therefore... (vs. 12)*

- Sanctification: the 'present tense' of salvation
- 1:12-2:18 Paul's and the Philippians life response in the present circumstances.
- Justification – salvation 'past tense'  
Sanctification – salvation 'present tense'  
Glorification – salvation 'future tense'
- Our present experience: the spiritual life as a struggle, a fight, something requiring discipline  
See Phil 3:12; I Tim 6:12; I Tim 4:8

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## The Context

### Our Work (vs. 12)

- **Obedience** – the ‘center line’ of the narrow path
  - being ‘under’ + ‘sound/hearing’  
i.e. placing yourself under the sound of the Word,  
submitting to what has been spoken

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### Our Work (vs. 12)

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- You have always obeyed – despite ups and downs

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## The Context

### Our Work (vs. 12)

- Obedience – the ‘center line’ of the narrow path
- You have always obeyed – despite ups and downs
- Obedience from within – the sign of maturity
- Perseverance on the path of obedience – continuing to work on spiritual maturity
  - Faith that doesn’t work is not faith (James 2:20,26)
  - ‘work’ + ‘out’ = working something through to completion

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## The Context

### Our Work (vs. 12)

### God's Work (vs. 13)

- We're not in this alone for we are 'response-able'!
- **Work** = the energy or ability to accomplish something
- **Play on words...**
  - Keep working it out for God is working it in
  - You must work out what the Worker is working in
  - The Energizer energizes us with spiritual energy to grow
- **The point: our ability to grow in Christ comes from God! We grow to maturity because He works in us to that end.**

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## The Context

**Our Work (vs. 12)**

**God's Work (vs. 13)**

## By Way of Personal Application...

- What evidence is there in your life of long-term, upward growth toward maturity?
- God – who is working in you – will bring you safely Home

*Stay on the path! He keeps you on the path!*