

God Performing His Work in You

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

A. Philippians 1.

B. Paul is writing to all the saints and the bishops and deacons.

1. When a person accepts the Lord into his life, there is a transformation that takes place in his heart. (1 Peter 1:23)

2. This is a mystery. (Colossians 1:23)

C. Grace is God's unmerited favor.

1. God has bestowed upon us unmerited favor.

2. Although we have done God wrong, He bestows peace upon us. (John 14:27)

3. Despite troubles in the world we have peace in Jesus. (John 16:33)

II. Prayer.

A. This is God performing His work in you.

B. There was a relationship and obedience between Paul and these people.

C. God will continue a good work because He has you in His heart.

D. Are you praying for others?

1. Do you really have others in your heart besides you?

2. If you do, you will have a great ministry.

E. We overcome our evil hearts by putting right things in it.

F. Paul prayed that they would have knowledge, a prerequisite for not falling and discernment. (2 Peter 2:1, John 7:24)

1. Jesus did not judge based simply on what he saw or heard. (Isaiah 11:3)

2. Jesus went behind the scenes to judge a situation.

G. Paul prayed that they would approve of things that are excellent. (Acts 24:16)

1. We are to pray that people would be filled with the fruit of doing right.

2. Doing right is doing to others as you would want done to you.
3. There is no arguing about what is morally right or morally wrong.

III. Perseverance.

- A. Paul's difficulties in jail had helped spread the gospel.
- B. Paul preferred to be with the Lord, but he stayed for the sake of the believers.
- C. Believers strive together in the faith of the gospel.

IV. Persecution.

- A. It is given to us to suffer rightly for Christ's sake. (1 Peter 2:20-21)
- B. God is continuing His work in us through prayer and perseverance in what is difficult.

Application questions

1. Why is it important to have discernment and an ability to judge certain situations? What example did the speaker use?

2. What does praying for others do to you?

3. How can we look at persecution in a positive light due to the Scriptural testimony on the subject? Explain.
