





IT IS  
GOD WHO  
WORKS  
IN YOU

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# GOD WORKS TOWARD OUR SALVATION

## God Has Worked

- ❖ Eternal purpose accomplished – *Ephesians 3:11*
- ❖ Brought salvation in Christ – *Acts 2:23-24, 32, 36* – crucified, raised, seated on throne.
- ❖ “Once for all” (ephapax) sacrifice – *Hebrews 10:5, 10*

## God is Working

- ❖ He will complete the work He started – *Philippians 1:6*
- ❖ He “works (present active verb) in you” – *Philippians 2:12*



# HOW SOME THINK GOD WORKS

**Man is totally depraved, so God works directly through miraculous operation on the heart.**

❖ "The Holy Spirit, in order to bring God's elect to salvation, extends to them a special inward call in addition to the outward call contained in the gospel message. Through this special call the Holy Spirit performs a work of grace within the sinner which inevitably brings him to faith in Christ...Although the general outward call of the gospel can be, and often is, rejected, the special inward call of the Spirit never fails to result in the conversion of those to whom it is made." (David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas, *"The Five Points of Calvinism, Defined, Defended, Documented,"* PG. 48-49)



# HOW SOME THINK GOD WORKS

**Man is totally depraved, so God works directly through miraculous operation on the heart.**

- ❖ Example of Lydia? – *Acts 16:11-15* – “*the Lord opened her heart*”
- ❖ Was this by a direct miraculous operation on the heart?



# HOW GOD WORKS IN YOU

## In Conjunction with You

- ❖ God is at work in those who are “*working out*” (*Philippians 2:12*).
- ❖ Initially:
  - ❖ It was Lydia’s own responsibility – *Acts 16:14-15*
  - ❖ What about the other women? – *Acts 16:13 (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:10)*
- ❖ Continually:
  - ❖ Salvation not completed – *Philippians 1:6; 2:12*
  - ❖ Self responsibility for completion – *2 Peter 1:10-11; 2 John 8; Hebrews 10:39*



# HOW GOD WORKS IN YOU

## Through His Word

### ❖ In Thessalonica:

❖ Gospel preached – *Acts 17:1-5* – persuaded vs not persuaded.

### ❖ In Philippi (Lydia):

❖ “*the Lord opened her heart*” – Thessalonica saved the same (cf. *Acts 15:11*).

❖ “*reasoned...from...Scriptures...explaining...demonstrating...were persuaded*” (*Acts 17:2-4*).

❖ Through the word – *1 Thessalonians 1:5-6; 2:8-9, 13*



# HOW GOD WORKS IN YOU

## Through His Word

❖ Lydia (*Acts 16:14-15*):

❖ Heard the gospel – *Acts 16:10*

❖ “*The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken*” – “*heed*” – *prosechō* – “to apply one’s self to, attach one’s self to, hold or cleave to a person or a thing” (THAYER)

❖ God works in us through His word – *Romans 1:16; 10:17* (power; faith); *Hebrews 4:12* (living and powerful); *James 1:18, 21* (brought forth by word, word able to save)



# WHAT IS GOD WORKING IN YOU?

## ***“To will”*** (incentive)

- ❖ Fear of judgment – *Philippians 2:12; Hebrews 9:27; 10:31*
- ❖ Desire for a better life – *1 Timothy 4:8*
- ❖ Compelling love of Christ – *2 Corinthians 5:14-15*
- ❖ Desire to be transformed into Christ’s image – *1 John 3:2-3*
- ❖ Desire for heaven – *Philippians 3:12-14, 20-21*

## ***“To do”*** (instruction)

- ❖ Instructs how to do His will through His word – *Galatians 5:16-26; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*



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