

4 in the series  
**Biblical Keys to Living  
The Joy Filled Life**

# **#4 Become a Christ-Like Disciple**

**Philippians 2:12-13**



## Philippians 1:27


*“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.”*



**Fact: God is in  
the Life Change  
Business.**



## Philippians 2:12-13

*“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who  you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”*



# I. God's Part in Changing Me

## 1. God uses CIRCUMSTANCES.



**Fact: As long as you are alive –  
you are going to have problems.**

# I. God's Part in Changing Me

## 1. God uses CIRCUMSTANCES.

**“It’s human! Mortals are born and bred for trouble, as certainly as sparks fly upward.”**

**Job 5:7 (MSG)**



# I. God's Part in Changing Me

## 1. God uses CIRCUMSTANCES.

“And we know that in all things  
God works for the good of those who love  
him, who have been called according to his  
purpose.”      Romans 8:28 (NIV)



# I. God's Part in Changing Me

## 2. God uses the BIBLE/SCRIPTURE.

“Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (MSG)





# I. God's Part in Changing Me

## 3. God changes us through the HOLY SPIRIT.

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”

Romans 8:11 (NIV)



# I. God's Part in Changing Me

## 3. God changes us through the HOLY SPIRIT.

“When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ’s!”

Romans 8:11b (MSG)



# I. God's Part in Changing Me

## 3. God changes us through the HOLY SPIRIT.

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 3:18



# I. God's Part in Changing Me

3. God changes us through the  
HOLY SPIRIT.

Fact: God's number one purpose in your life is not to make you happy – it is to make you holy – just as Christ was holy.



## II. My Part in Changing Me

1. I can choose what I THINK about.

“Finally, brothers and sisters,  
whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever  
is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent  
or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)



## II. My Part in Changing Me

1. I can choose what I THINK about.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2 (NIV)



## II. My Part in Changing Me

2. I can choose to DEPEND on God.

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”



## II. My Part in Changing Me

2. I can choose to DEPEND on God.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:4-5 (NIV)





## **II. My Part in Changing Me**

**3. I can choose how I respond to  
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,  
whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>  
because you know that the testing of your  
faith produces perseverance.**



## II. My Part in Changing Me

3. I can choose how I respond to  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

<sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

James 1:2-4 (NIV)



## II. My Part in Changing Me

3. I can choose how I respond to  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)



## **II. My Part in Changing Me**

**3. I can choose how I respond to  
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**God is more concerned  
with your character  
than He is  
with your comfort.**



# CONCLUSION

**You can:**

- 1. Paddle against the current.**
- 2. Sit in the rowboat and go with the flow.**
- 3. Paddle with the current.**



# NEXT WEEK

5 in the series  
**Biblical Keys to Living  
The Joy Filled Life**



## **#5 Be Positive in a Negative World**

**Philippians 2:14-16**