

“Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:12-13 NLT

Isn't this the expectation of every pastor, that people would follow instructions to show the results of their salvation? What are the results? The fruit of the Spirit? The fulfillment of the “one another's”? The attitude of Christ as a humble servant? Yes! And leaning into the power that God gives every believer to have the DESIRE and POWER to do what pleases him. Obedience and yielding to the nudging of the Holy Spirit, directing our lives and being “heaven on earth,” the present Kingdom of God in our communities of faith and a light to those in darkness. This is what pastors desire to see in every one under their care.

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pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

Is this too much to expect from people? Paul asked the churches in Philippi to follow his instructions whether he was with them or not. Shouldn't we love AND expect growth? Shouldn't we encourage and admonish? It is hard on pastors/teachers to give of themselves and not see results, maturity, movement towards the things of Christ.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root