

“Few things are harder to put up with, than the annoyance of a good example.”

Mark Twain

The Simon Principal

*So then, my beloved, just as you have **always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling**; for it is God who is **at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.***

The Three Works

- Work out your Salvation – Plan it out like you would a building
 - *Luke 14:28*
For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?
 - *Romans 12:2*
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- God is at Work – God must work in us before we can work out
 - *1 Corinthians 12:6*
There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

- Work for His Pleasure –
 - *Luke 2:14*
*“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is **pleased.**”*

The Simon Principal

- Unity not Uniformity
- “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus”
- God works in, and we work out; God must work in us before He will work through us

Question to Consider

- What does Obedience Look Like?
- Why is it so difficult to fully follow the “Good Example” of others?
- Why is it important to understand the effect of “Salvation” on your life? Why does it look different than it does in the life of others?
- Is it important to help your children understand the way salvation works in their lives? How does the world perspective affect that way that we see the effect of salvation on our lives, our friends, our family?
- Why is it easier just to follow the example of a leaders and try to look like him/her? What does that not work?

The Anna Principal

Do all things without **grumbling or disputing**; so that you will prove yourselves to be **blameless and innocent**, children of God **above reproach** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you **appear as lights** in the world, **holding fast the word of life**, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

- Grumbling – Complaint
- Disputing
 - *Luke 6:8,9 But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!” And he got up and came forward. And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?”*
- Blameless and Innocent – Uncontrolled by Evil
 - *Luke 1:6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.*
- Above Reproach – Spotless like a lamb
 - *Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.*
- Crooked and Perverse – Turn aside from the true path

The Anna Principal

- Living out our salvation different than the world around us
- Lights that show the true way of God

Question to Consider

- How do we show our disagreement or differences with others?
- How can we disagree and remain innocent and blameless?
- How does disagreement even when we are in the right leave us “spotted” or not beyond reproach?
- What are the areas where we must agree and what are areas where we can serve together while disagreeing?
- How did Christ display his disagreement with those who were opposed to him?
- How did Paul display his disagreement with those who were opposed to him?
- Does being a light of God’s Truth mean that we can always win over those who are in opposition to us?
- When we look back at our lives do, we see a history of bringing people together for Christ?
- What will I do to live different and be a light for the life of the Word?

The Joy (MiJoy) Principal

But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

- **Drink Offering**

- *Matthew 26:28*

for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

- *2 Timothy 4:6*

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

- **rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.**

- *Hebrews 12:1,2*

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Joy Principal

- Joy in the spiritual progress of the community
- Joy in the face of defeat and disappointment

Question to Consider

- What areas of my life am I not pouring out of the cup which keep me from having the full joy of God?
- If I am fully pouring out the cup of my life, is it valid for me to share my problems and concerns with other or should I just listen? What did Paul do?
- How did the brothers and sisters “share their joy” with Paul?
- What gives us greater joy as a spiritual community, physical provision or spiritual transformation?
- How can I “share joy” with my spouse, child friends, relatives. Coworkers?
- Who is one person I will “share joy” with today?