

Passages that may be confusing

Philippians 2:12

“... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” work out your salvation.

To “work it out” means “to finish it.” It is not a reference to the attempt to earn one’s salvation by works. It is an expression of one’s salvation in spiritual growth and development. It is the process of perseverance, spiritual growth and maturation. Paul is referring to the Christian’s continuing in faith until they enter into eternal life.

We are not to fear and tremble because we have doubt or anxiety. This reference is to bring about an active reverence and a singleness of purpose in response to God’s grace.