

Message Five

Living with the Divine Trinity (2)

God Operating in Us

Hymns: 242, 539

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:13; 1:19-21a; Acts 16:7; Rom. 8:9

- Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
- Acts 16:7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.
- Rom. 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

I. “It is God who operates in you”—Phil. 2:13a:

- Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- A. God has a move on earth, and He moves by His operating—1 Cor. 12:6, 11; 2 Cor. 1:6; 4:12; Eph. 1:19; 3:7, 20; 4:16; Phil. 3:21; Col. 1:29; 2:12; 1 Thes. 2:13.
- 1 Cor. 12:6 And there are distinctions of operations, but the same God, who operates all things in all.
- 1 Cor. 12:11 But the one and the same Spirit operates all these things, distributing to each one respectively even as He purposes.
- 2 Cor. 1:6 But whether we are afflicted, it is for your comforting and salvation; or whether we are comforted, it is for your comforting, which operates in the endurance of the same sufferings which we also suffer.
- 2 Cor. 4:12 So then death operates in us, but life in you.
- Eph. 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
- Eph. 3:7 Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God which was given to me according to the operation of His power.
- Eph. 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Phil. 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.
- Col. 1:29 For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.
- Col. 2:12 Buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead.

1 Thes. 2:13 And because of this we also thank God unceasingly that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but even as it truly is, the word of God, which also operates in you who believe.

B. Philippians 2:12-13 reveals that the overall, all-embracing, inclusive thought of the book of Philippians is that God is operating in us:

Phil. 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

1. Whatever Christ is to us is for the operating of God—vv. 5-11; 3:8-10.

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
Phil. 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

Phil. 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil. 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

Phil. 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

Phil. 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Phil. 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Phil. 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil. 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

2. Our God is living, moving, and operating in us continuously, and we should care for God's operating in us—2:13.

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

3. If we have the spiritual discernment, the spiritual realizing power, we can see that all the things in the book of Philippians are related to God's operating in us—1:19; 2:5-11; 3:10, 12, 21; 4:5-7, 19, 23.

Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

Phil. 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

Phil. 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil. 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

- Phil. 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- Phil. 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- Phil. 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
- Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil. 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.
- Phil. 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.
- Phil. 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
- Phil. 4:19 And my God will fill your every need according to His riches, in glory, in Christ Jesus.
- Phil. 4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

C. Everything that is covered in the book of Philippians is under God's operating move:

1. Chapter 1 shows us that we need to live and magnify Christ for Him to be our living and expression—vv. 20-21.

- Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

2. Chapter 2 shows that we need to take Christ as our pattern and hold Him forth—vv. 5-11, 16.

- Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
- Phil. 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
- Phil. 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
- Phil. 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
- Phil. 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- Phil. 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- Phil. 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
- Phil. 2:16 Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

3. Chapter 3 shows that we need to pursue and gain Christ as our goal—v. 14.

- Phil. 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

4. Chapter 4 shows that Christ is our secret—vv. 12-13.

Phil. 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Phil. 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

D. God is operating in us “both the willing and the working for His good pleasure”—2:13b:

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

1. The God who operates in us is the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14.

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2. The willing is within; the working is without—Phil. 2:13:

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

a. The willing takes place in our will, indicating that God’s operation begins from our spirit and spreads into our mind, emotion, and will—Rom. 8:4, 6.

Rom. 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

b. The Greek word for working, or acting, in Philippians 2:13 is the same word for operates in this verse.

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

3. In verse 13 “His good pleasure”—the good pleasure of His will—is that we may reach the climax of His supreme salvation—Eph. 1:5; Phil. 1:19; 2:12.

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Eph. 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil. 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

E. We need to see that God’s operating in us is a miraculous normality; it is altogether normal yet altogether miraculous—v. 13; 4:6-7:

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Phil. 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man’s understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

1. God is operating within us miraculously yet normally and quietly—v. 7.

- Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
2. God's operating in us is not outwardly spectacular, but in a spiritual sense it is a great matter—Eph. 1:19; 3:17.
- Eph. 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

II. God's operating in us is with “the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ”—Phil. 1:19:

Eph. 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,

A. The Spirit of Jesus is a particular expression concerning the Spirit of God and refers to the Spirit of the incarnated Savior who, as Jesus in His humanity, passed through human living and death on the cross—Acts 16:7; Luke 1:31, 35; Matt. 1:21:

- Acts 16:7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.
- Luke 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.
- Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.
- Matt. 1:21 And she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.

1. In the Spirit of Jesus there is not only the divine element of God but also the human element of Jesus and the elements of His human living and His suffering of death as well—Phil. 2:5-8.

- Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
- Phil. 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
- Phil. 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
- Phil. 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

2. The Spirit of Jesus is not only the Spirit of God with divinity so that we may live the divine life but also the Spirit of the man Jesus with humanity in Him so that we may live a proper human life and endure its sufferings—v. 15.

- Phil. 2:15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,

3. In his suffering Paul needed the Spirit of Jesus because in the Spirit of Jesus is the suffering element and the suffering strength to withstand persecution—Col. 1:24; Acts 9:15-16; 16:7.

- Col. 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before both the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;
Acts 9:16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer on behalf of My name.
Acts 16:7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

B. The Spirit of Christ refers to the Spirit of Christ in resurrection—Rom. 8:9:

Rom. 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

1. Through the process of incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, the Spirit of God has become the Spirit of Christ—v. 9.

Rom. 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

2. The Spirit of Christ is actually Christ Himself dwelling in our spirit to impart Himself, the embodiment of the processed Triune God, into us as resurrection life and power to deal with death in our nature—vv. 2, 9.

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom. 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

3. By the Spirit of Christ we can partake of the power of His resurrection life, identified with Him in the transcendence of His ascension and in the authority of His enthronement—Phil. 3:10; Eph. 1:20-21; 2:6; John 11:25; Acts 2:22-24, 31-36.

Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Eph. 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

Eph. 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;

Eph. 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

Acts 2:22 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man shown by God to you to be approved by works of power and wonders and signs, which God did through Him in your midst, even as you yourselves know-

Acts 2:23 This man, delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you, through the hand of lawless men, nailed to a cross and killed;

Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

Acts 2:31 He, seeing this beforehand, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was He abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses.

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

Acts 2:34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand

Acts 2:35 Until I set Your enemies as a footstool for Your feet."

- Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.
- C. The Spirit of Jesus Christ refers to the Spirit of the suffering Jesus and the resurrected Christ—Phil. 1:19:
- Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Because the Spirit of Jesus has particular reference to the Lord's suffering, and the Spirit of Christ to His resurrection, the Spirit of Jesus Christ is related to both His suffering and His resurrection; the Spirit of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of the Jesus who lived a life of suffering on earth and of the Christ who is now in resurrection—Acts 16:7; Rom. 8:9; Phil. 1:19.
- Acts 16:7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.
- Rom. 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
- Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- The Spirit of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of God becoming “the Spirit” mentioned in John 7:39—the Spirit of Jesus Christ through Christ’s incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, that Spirit with both the divine element and the human element, with all the essence and reality of the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ.
- John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- D. Bountiful supply is a specific and rich word used by the apostle to indicate the bountiful, rich supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—Phil. 1:19:
- Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- We need to see that the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ includes divinity, the divine person with the divine life and nature; an uplifted humanity, a humanity with a proper life, living, nature, and person; the Lord’s wonderful, all-inclusive death on the cross; and Christ’s resurrection and ascension—John 1:1, 14, 29; Gal. 2:20; Luke 24:5-6, 50-51.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
- Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Luke 24:5 And they became frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, and the men said to them, Why are you seeking the living One among the dead?
- Luke 24:6 He is not here but has been raised. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee,
- Luke 24:50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

Luke 24:51 And while He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

2. By the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we, like Paul, can live Christ and magnify Him—Phil. 1:19-21a:

Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

a. This bountiful supply of the all-inclusive Spirit of Jesus Christ is for us to magnify Jesus Christ by living Him; we live Him so that He may be magnified in any circumstances—vv. 20-21; 4:11-13.

Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil. 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.

Phil. 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Phil. 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

b. In the Spirit of Jesus Christ there is the all-inclusive bountiful supply that enables us to meet any kind of environment and thus experience Christ, enjoy Christ, live Christ, and magnify Christ—1:19-21a; 4:11.

Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil. 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.