

June 14, 2026

Digging deeper: Philippians 2:12-18 (Live as Lights)

Slide 1 (8 min)

Read Philippians 2:12. Then, focus on 12b (2nd sentence).

- Do you *think* Paul is concerned that the Philippians will fall back into fleshly desires when he leaves? Explain.
- Does this contradict verse 13?
- Why are the encouragement and accountability of other believers so important in our lives?

Slide 2 (9 min)

Read the following scriptures about our *desires*, then answer the question.

- Psalm 37:4-5
- Romans 6:12-14, 13:13-14
- Galatians 5:16-17
- Colossians 3:5
- James 1:13-16

Question: As believers, what is the real struggle that we must “work hard” to fight against?

Slide 3 (7 min)

Read Philippians 2:14-17

- How do *you* live as a light among the darkness of unbelievers? (see also 1 Peter 2:11-12)
- How can you pour out your life like a sacrificial offering to the Lord? (Phil. 2:17)

Observations:

Slide 1 (8 min)

Read Philippians 2:12. Then, focus on 12b (2nd sentence).

- Do you *think* Paul is concerned that the Philippians will fall back into fleshly desires when he leaves? (yes. In 1:9-10 he tells them to keep growing so they'll know how to obey.)
- Does this contradict verse 13? (no, the Spirit of God gives us power against the flesh, but we must say NO to the flesh and “tame it” to be obedient)
- Why are the encouragement and accountability of other believers so important in our lives? (we need help in our struggle against the flesh; the encouragement and support of other believers helps us to remain faithful and strong)

Slide 2 (9 min)

Read the following scriptures about our desires, then answer the question.

- Psalm 37:4-5 (delight in the Lord; trust Him, commit everything to Him – and he will give us His desires)
- Romans 6:12-14, 13:13-14 (don't allow sin to reign or have control)
- Galatians 5:16-17 (obey the Spirit, not the flesh; these fight against each other)
- Colossians 3:5 (put to death the fleshly, evil desires)
- James 1:13-16 (temptation comes from our fleshly desires, which, when followed, leads to consequences and in some cases physical death)

Question: As believers, what is the real struggle that we must “work hard” to fight against? (the enemy of our flesh, which still desires to sin)

Slide 3 (7 min)

Read Philippians 2:14-17

- How do *you* live as a light among the darkness of unbelievers? (see also 1 Peter 2:11-12)
- How can you pour out your life like a sacrificial offering to the Lord? (Phil. 2:17) – faithful service; live holy, trusting God, and share the truth of God's Word