



New International Version is used for questions

1. Read James 1:22. What is the truth communicated in this verse? How is a person deceived if they do not apply what they learn of God's word? If you are not planning on doing what you learn from what the Bible says, is there any benefit to studying the Bible? What does 1 Corinthians 8:1 say happens to a person who just accumulates knowledge?
2. Read Philippians 2:12,13. What does this passage say God is doing in us? What should you do if you are unwilling to be obedient to God? What do you think it means to work out your salvation?
3. Pastor Rick said that God is just as concerned with why we do what we do as what we do. Do you think this is true? Give an example of how a person can do a good thing with the wrong motive. If my motives are wrong, should I still do the right thing?
4. Read John 16:13-15. Literally, what person is working inside of us? How does the Spirit lead us into doing what is right? How can we judge if the Holy Spirit is leading us to do something?
5. Read Philippians 2:14,15. How can you tell the difference between someone (or yourself) who is disagreeing and someone who is complaining? What does this verse say will happen if you are a person who likes to complain or argue about everything? Read Luke 6:45. What does arguing and complaining reveal?
6. Read Philippians 2:17,18 and John 15:11. Paul was in prison and Jesus was about to be crucified, which he knew. How can they speak of having joy in those circumstances? What was it that gave them joy?

only learn what God says, they are deceived into thinking that learning alone is sufficient for being like Christ and growing spiritually when it is not, so they think they are okay. If you are not going to apply what you learn, there is not point in learning it, in fact 1 Corinthians 8:1 says that knowledge by itself will just make you proud because you think that knowing a lot is sufficient.

2. This passage says that God is working in us first to want to do what he says (will) and then to actually do it. If you are not willing to do what God says, ask God to change your attitude and cause you to become willing. The main thing that will help us to become willing is to work on our personal relationship with Christ so that we are not doing something just because it is mandatory but because we love him. When you love someone, you are willing to do things for them that you normally would not be willing to do. Working out your salvation means you are saved (inside) and now you need to begin to let it manifest itself in the way you live, like a farmer who cultivates his field so that it will grow a crop. It is not saying you have to work **for** your salvation.
3. Any time we do something that we should do for any other reason than to please and serve God is when we do things for the wrong motive. An example is if I go to church simply so that someone will get off my case about it or if I do something God says I should do so that other people will think I am spiritual. If your motive is wrong we still should do the right thing because it is right, it is never wrong to do the right action but then ask God to change our motive, he will do that.
4. The Holy Spirit is the person who is working inside of us. The Spirit will lead us through what God says is true in his word, he will never lead you to do something that would cause you to violate something that God's word says is true. For example the Spirit would never lead you to do something that would hinder your relationship with God or your ability to obey him.
5. The way you can tell if you are complaining is your motive. If you are saying things that are simply to make yourself feel better and not to actually be helpful or just to be right, you are probably complaining. If you argue with people just to show how smart you are and not to be helpful in solving a problem, you are doing what this verse says not to do. This passage says that if you are a complainer or arguer, you will not be blameless and pure and you will not be an example to those who are not Christians. You will not be holding forth the word of life, the gospel of Christ. Luke 6:45 tells us that your speech reveals what is in your heart. Complaining and arguing shows what is in your heart.
6. Both Paul and Jesus could have joy because they were more concerned with how their circumstances would be a benefit to other people than how they would feel about the suffering they were going through. Joy is a result of believing that God will cause good to come out of our circumstances, even when the good is for someone else.