

COULD IT BE????

*Philippians 2:12-16*

# Pondering on vacation....

- Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. NLT
- Where are we today? What is happening around us and to us?
- Thinking about events, choices, decisions in our life and where we are today.
  - What if's .....
- Can you think quickly about people in the Bible where God was doing things that the people at the time didn't understand?

- **Joseph in Genesis 37-50**

- Genesis 50:19-20 But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ESV

- **Jeremiah 24** Good figs and bad figs

- **Matthew 16:13-23** "You are the Christ," - "Get behind me Satan"

- **Matthew 26:47-56** Jesus arrest and the cutting off of the servants ear.

- **Acts 21:10-14** Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, arrived from Judea. 11 He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, "The Holy Spirit declares, 'So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.'" 12 When we heard this, we and the local believers all begged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

- 13 But he said, "Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus." 14 When it was clear that we couldn't persuade him, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done." NLT

- Think about how we pray and what we pray!
  - 1983
  - “Lord help us today to accomplish the things we need to accomplish”
    - Who is determining all the things we need to accomplish?
  - Hurricane
- **COULD IT BE ????????**
- Philippians 2:12-16 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 **for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**
- 14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ESV

- **God is a Worker!**

- He is the greatest worker in the universe.
- Elihu said to Job, “Listen to this, O Job; stand still and consider the wondrous works of God” (Job 37:14 ESV).
- How much would we all profit greatly if we would stand still in this fast-paced world and consider the wondrous works of God.
- The God Who worked for six days creating this vast universe is also working within you and I, these lives of His dust-originated creatures—what a wonderful truth! Think about it: **“it is God who works in you”**

- **Paul's Admonition**

- “We’re still under construction; God isn’t finished with us yet!”
- Work out, not work for!

- **3 Aspects of God’s Work;**

- **God’s internal work.** “...it is God who works in you...”

- We are under construction from the inside out. Authentic Christianity is an “inside job”!
- “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you” (Ezekiel 36:26). That in essence is exactly what He does by His internal work.
- God specializes in spiritual Internal Medicine

- **God’s immediate work.**

- God is right now, in the present moment, working in the lives of every one of His children.
- There is God-work going on within us continually.

- **God is a consistent worker**—when He takes us into His family, He begins a work that He never terminates until He accomplishes His purpose.
  - “He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6).
- **God’s Purpose:**
  - for it is God who works in you, **both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**
  - God’s purpose is to produce within us a willingness to do His will.
  - “...God ...works in you...to will...”
- The Weymouth translation of Philippians 2:13 is as follows: “It is God himself whose power creates within you both the desire and the power to execute his gracious will.”
- John 3:30 He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.
- Willingness is like an engine in an automobile—it has great potential but unless it turns the wheels it is useless.

- Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood—

**21 may he equip you with all you need for doing his will.** May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, **every good thing that is pleasing to him.**

All glory to him forever and ever! Amen. NLT

- He's Still Working on Me





