

Working Hard in the New Year

Philippians 2:12-18

What is hard work like in the Christian life?

Why should a follower of Christ work harder?

What specific areas in my life should I work harder?

What is hard work like in the Christian life?

V.12

- a. Hard work does not rest on past accomplishments.
- b. Hard work expands beyond past and present comfort zones.

What is hard work like in the Christian life?

V.12

c. Hard work is sustained, productive effort.

d. Hard work is appropriately urgent and serious.

Why should a follower of Christ work harder?

12-18

- Personal benefit/return – better life.
- Hope of acknowledgement.
- Fear of something bad happening.
- Want to be viewed as a good person.

Why should a follower of Christ work harder?

12-18

a. You believe that God is at work in you.

13

. . . Of this you have heard before in the word
of truth, the gospel, which has come to you . .
. it is bearing fruit and growing . . . since the
day you heard it . . .

Col. 1:5-6

. . . Because of the grace of God that was
given you in Christ Jesus . . . 1Cor. 1:4

. . . Our gospel came to you . . . in word, . . . in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction . . . you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, . . .

1Thess. 1:5-6

Why should a follower of Christ work harder?

12-18

a. You believe that God is at work in you.

13

b. You know the world is an increasingly
darker place.

15

Why should a follower of Christ work harder?

12-18

c. You expect Jesus to come again to judge
and reward. 16

d. You desire the greater joy that comes
with obedience. 17-18

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What specific areas in my life should I work harder?
14-18

a. Self denying contentment. 14-15

b. Gospel focused community. 16-18

Take Aways

1. Acknowledge your struggle with giving God less than your best effort. Confess and repent.
2. Identify the ways God has been at work in your life in the past year.

Take Aways

3. Acknowledge your need to change the motives of your heart.
4. Ask God for help as you begin working to change the way you think about living the gospel.