

IronWorks: True Lives: You can't fake know-how

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*“A TEAM is a group of people committed to a common **purpose**...*

*...who choose to **cooperate** in order to achieve exceptional **results**.”*

—Pat MacMillan, The Performance Factor

Philippians 2:12-18:

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. ¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.”

There is no “I” in team, but there is a need for “U” in the living church.

① We Work Out: (v.12-13)

- **Salvation know-how = Sanctification**

“After three years in ministry it is possible to simulate every quality except holiness.”

—J.I. Packer

- **Attitude know-how = Humility**

Life is at stake: “With fear and trembling”

- **Teamwork know-how (v.14-15) = Community**

Understanding: this is bigger than me

Accepting someone unlike me

Respecting and appreciating efforts and ideas

Kindness in word and thought

Accountability to the team and the goal

② **God Works In: (v.13)**

- **Change of heart: “To will and act according to his good purpose”**
- **Change of influence: “You shine like stars” (v.15)**
- **Change of purpose: “You hold out the word of life” (v.16)**

Small Group Discussion Questions

- ① What aspect of your children’s lives, your friendships, your career, or our nation’s future causes “fear and trembling” and motivates your desire for spiritual effectiveness and witness?
- ② What is a significant challenge you face and who is really working in it with you?
- ③ Which spiritual practices or disciplines since your conversion have been essential to your growth and confidence?