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# Spiritual Growth: Two Sides

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## Philippians 2:12-13

### Introduction:

3 reasons why we fall short in our pursuit of holiness:

1. Our attitude toward sin is more \_\_\_\_\_ centered than God centered.
2. We do not take some sin \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We have misunderstood living by \_\_\_\_\_ to mean that no effort at holiness is required on our part.

## Two Ingredients for Effective Spiritual Growth

### I. Spiritual Growth involves Diligent Effort (v.12)

- 1 Cor. 9:27 "I discipline my body"
- 1 Tim. 4:7 "Exercise yourself toward godliness"
- "...not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence"
- Prov. 27:17

### II. Spiritual Growth involves Divine Energy (v. 13)

- Spiritual growth involves us working it out and God working within
- John 15:5 "apart from Me, you can do nothing"
- John MacArthur: *"The truth is that spiritual growth is God's work, but He performs it through the diligent self-discipline and righteous pursuits of His people, not in spite of them. God's sovereign work does not absolve (or excuse) believers from the need for obedience; it means their obedience is itself a Spirit-empowered work of God."*

**Conclusion: Live as if it all depends on you, and pray as if it all depends on God!**