

November 6, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

FOR GOD'S GOOD PURPOSE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

*"My beloved, obedient as you have always been,
not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent,
work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*

***For God is the one who, for his good purpose,
works in you both to desire and to work."***

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

Reflection

When I receive a gift, I try to express my gratitude, and then use the gift somehow. This rhythm of receiving, gratitude, and giving demonstrates respect for the giver and opens me to joy and gratitude in receiving the generosity of the other.

St. Paul urges us to work out our salvation. It would be easy to think one of two

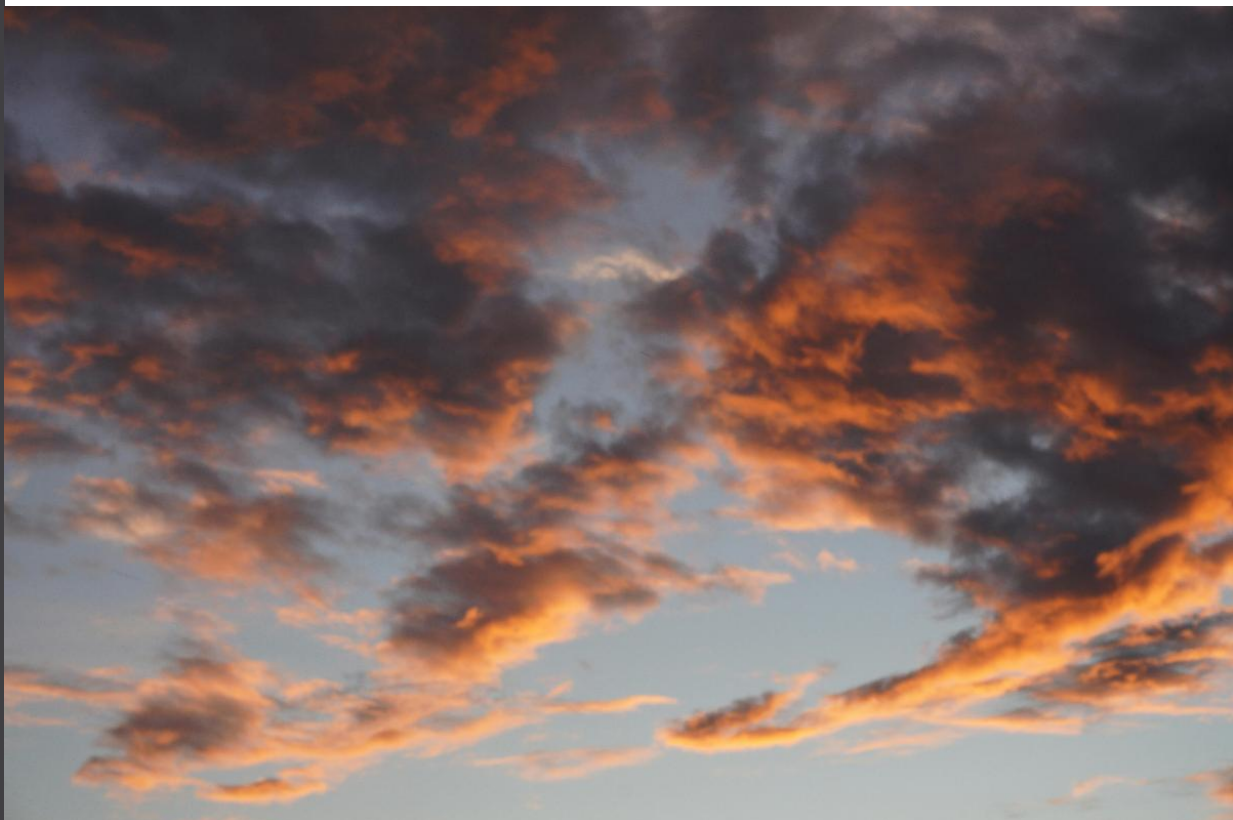
things. First, I can save myself through hard work and striving for perfection! Or, “No worries, I have been saved through Jesus’ self-gift long ago. Now I can sit back and relax.” Sorry, both responses are presumptuous.

Yes, through Jesus, God has already saved me. Yet I cannot presume this is a done deal. The gifts of relationship with God and personal freedom -- with which I have been created -- mean I must choose to accept and cooperate with all that God gives me, including salvation. I am impelled toward assuming responsibility for my life in God. I consciously choose to act in God’s ways, to model my living in God’s gracious love and presence.

Why do I act out of God’s goodness to me? Well, it is for my own good and taps into my desire to reflect God’s love in the world. I uniquely witness by my life that God is present, at home in the world, in love with all he has created, and active in my life. I cooperate with God’s continued creative energy for the world. Besides, my engagement with God’s abiding presence and love gives God pleasure; my manner of living witnesses to God’s good purpose for me personally, to co-create with God.

It is God who gives the desire to be in relationship and the impetus to “work” or engage the lavish gifts given in love. “God’s goodness is always running after me.” (song by Bethal Music 2019)

“God’s free gift of love supports your life at every moment. Rely on it.” MAXIM 14



For Pondering

- What are the gifts with which God has blessed me?
 - What are the ways I cooperate with God?
 - How readily have I embraced these gifts and used them for the good of others?
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For Prayer

*Gracious God,
you surrounded me with your lavish love and grace.
All good gifts come from your loving hand.
I am most grateful.
I pray to always cooperate with your life within me.
May all that I think, do, say, reflect your desire for me and for the world.
You formed me to be goodness and light in the world.
You invite me to co-create the world anew.
All praise, honor, and glory be yours now and forever.
Amen.*

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