

**Peace for the Journey ... May 26, 2010**

Scripture Reading: [Philippians 2:5-18](#)

God's grace calls for our response. This is the basic order of Christian life. We should be aware of how easily we get out of order. A significant aspect of our human condition is that we are self-centered. Instead of believing that God speaks (first) and we respond, we turn the relationship around and put ourselves first: we speak (first) and try to get God to respond.

Thankfully, Scripture sets us straight and helps us get our lives *in order*. In Philippians, we read how Jesus emptied himself on our behalf, and in response we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. We discover that God makes it possible for us to choose God and live lives pleasing to God. God gets the first and the last word; and we respond. Our response to God's grace is to live lives that shine like stars. God's grace enables us to be blameless and obedient, holding fast to God's Word.

Pay attention to ways your life gets out of order. In prayer, ask God to put your life in order. Re-read Philippians 2:5-11. These are some of God's first and last words. Live your life as a response to Jesus' sacrificial love.

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Dear God: Thank you for your sacrificial love. Forgive me for letting my life get out of order by putting myself first. In your Son, Jesus, I know you have spoken the first word. Help me respond to your love and grace by living an obedient life that is pleasing to you. Amen.