

## God Will Finish The Work He Started In You

Philippians 1:6

### God is building you

God promised that he will finish the work that he started in you, until the day that Jesus Christ comes back. The finish work of Christ on the cross is the guarantee that he will finish the work that he started. We can trust the hand of the Master Carpenter because he is an expert builder. His love for you is the motivation that keeps him working on you until Jesus comes back for you. Phil.1:6.

I'm so excited because God will never abandon the work of his hands! I want you to think about that for a moment, because we need to know that God is on the job, he is working in us to produce the fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22. it's good to know that we have someone that will never leave us unfinished, even at times when we don't want to be worked on, God is working in us to will and to do according to his good pleasure, his purpose shall prevail. Phil. 2:13

God holds you in the palm of his hand and also the Son of God holds you, and his promise is that nothing can snatch you out of his hand. This is an awesome and great promise, God has you tightly in his grip of Grace. Jn. 10:28-29. His love and mercy has no end, he is the master carpenter who is at work in you to bring you to the point of total surrender.

God is not like human fathers his expectation of you and his promise to you is absolutely sure, it cannot be changed and it cannot be taken away. God is always looking at you and he knows the plans that he has for you, they are plans to prosper you and to give you a good future, Jeremiah 29:11. There are times I know that you feel that God is nowhere in sight, but that's a human trait, that's not for the Spirit of God, he is always near you, he is closer than your very breath.

### My testimony

My father abandoned me when I was five years old. I can never forget that day. Can you imagine the feeling that a five-year-old boy experiences when he sees his father go out the door and never come back again. I felt afraid, unsure of what was going to happen in the future and to see my mother crying and my brothers and sisters going through deep emotional agony, it really took effect in our lives. We went from living in a nice apartment to the basement, we went from house to house after that and never really got established again, it was hard! My story only serves to remind us how important it is for fathers to be in a home.

My mother was a strong woman who kept the home together, she did anything she could to do to keep a roof over our heads food on the table. But it was never the same without having a father figure to sit at our table and teach us the right way in life. so eventually we went about our separate ways and learn to survive. At times I cannot help but to think where we could have been had our father been around. He was an awesome musician who was known in his day as the best left-handed guitar player. We had the best in our home but when he left us we

lost it all. I thank God that I was able reestablished my relationship with him later on. I have a deep respect for my father and I love him very much and I have no ill feelings toward him, on the contrary I love him and I admire him.

### **Our heavenly father is different**

God does not abandon his house, he takes care of his children, he provides for them and makes sure that they are safe. Praise the Lord. When God builds a house he does it to the finish, he is in the business of building lives and giving them the power and strength that they need to become great in him.

### **My struggles as a new Christian**

I knew that God loved me and that he would never leave me, yet I found myself struggling whenever I failed him. I would actually find myself asking him not to leave me. This was a reflection on my human side based on what happened to me with my biological father. It took time for me to really understand that God is not like our human fathers, when he says that he will never leave you, he means it. Heb.13:8. The day that this broke in my life was when I realized according to the Bible, particularly Psalm 139 that he would not abandon the works of his hands.

It opens up with the fact that God knows every word that I speak, every thought that I think, he knows when I sit down and when I rise up, he knows everything about me. It wasn't till I read the verse that said, "where can I go from your Spirit, where can I go from your presence" Ps.139:7. This verse of Scripture cleared it up for me, I realized that every place that I went my Heavenly Father was with me, that I could go no place that he was not already there. This broke the chains of fear that God was going to leave me whenever I did something wrong. I realized that when he begins his work in you, he will carry it through to the very end. my brothers and my sisters this is something to be very happy about. God is constantly chiseling away at our lives until the image of Christ comes forth. Rom.8:29, Colo. 3:5-10.

### **Philippians 1:6 is more than just a suggestion, it is an absolute promise**

The verse of Scripture Phil. 1:6 carries with it a promise that is irreversible. We did not start this work, there was nothing in us that we desired God, he came on the scene, Isa.65:1-3, and gave his life for us by pouring out his blood, Acts 20:28. God did not make a sacrifice for nothing, he gave it for humanity so that we can have everlasting life with him, Rom.5:1. When you receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior it is because God revealed himself to you, and gave you grace so that you can accept the gracious gift of eternal life. It is free and it belongs totally to him. Eph.2:8

We see that Christ on the cross paid the full redemption for our salvation, we had nothing to do with it is something that God predetermined before the foundations of the world, Rev.13:8. Christ is the Lamb that was slain before we came into existence. I know this is a very hard thing to swallow because we do not understand this mystery, but it still is a bonafide fact that can never be changed, it can never be defeated and they can never be void. Isa.55:11.

## **His finished work on the cross is the beginning point of our sanctification and regeneration.**

The cross of Jesus Christ is the revolution that started when he was poured out, that is to say his blood and his body was broken so that we can be healed, Heb.10:20. We must admit that everything that God does in us is the work of his hand through the power of the Holy Spirit. Even while we are sleeping God is working in our heart to glorify his Son through us, Heb.4:12. When we are walking not according to his will, he teaches us by his goodness to repent and come back to the road of righteousness, Phil.2:13. Although we are righteous positionally, Eph.2:5 we must practice righteousness practically, Rom.8:12. His finished work on the cross allows us to sit with him in heavenly places, but his Holy Spirit was given to us here on earth so that we can learn to live like Jesus. In simple terms, because Jesus is, "sinless" we can sin-less! This is a play on words but nonetheless true.

## **The apostle Paul was a father of the Gospel**

After the conversion of the apostle Paul, the Lord put within him a desire from the Holy Spirit to want to see people get saved and grow in the knowledge of God. This man who was found to destroy the church now became an ambassador and an apostle to the church. He understood that his call was to teach people the knowledge of God so that they could grow in Christ and become mature. His whole life was driven by Christ to teach the doctrine of Christ. The apostle Paul knew about the destructive doctrines, philosophies and ideologies of the day that crept into the church in order to destroy it. People were not sure about their salvation nor about the work of salvation that God was working in them, it is only natural for a father such as the apostle Paul, to be concerned that people would be led astray. Remember that Paul was a scholar and a very important man in his community, he had great status in socialism and was going to be a very powerful man, but God had other plans for him.

Philippians 1:6 is very strong language and we need to understand that it means to be fully persuaded or convinced, the apostle Paul was fully persuaded and convince according to the truth that was revealed to him, that God would never abandon the works of his hand. Man cannot be made right with God without God helping him to become right with him. We can not boast about the redemption of Christ as though we had part in it, God and God alone is responsible for saving humanity, Jn.1:12 What makes us think that God started salvation, but we must finish it. This is absurd and must be rejected because it only creates a life of frustration. God started it and he has to finish it, it is his agenda and no one helped him write it, no one gave him any idea on how to do it and no one is inspiring him to finish it.

The good work that the apostle is talking about here refers to the piety of godly character. This is called the work of God, the work of the Lord, or the work of Christ. Jn 6:29. Comp. 1Cor 15:58, 16:10, Php 2:30. if a man has a part to persevere in building Christian character, there is no sure evidence that he will ever get to heaven, because heart of man is sick, wicked and incurable as far as man is concerned. Jeremiah17:9. If man could fix himself and build himself what would be the purpose for God to begin a good work. There would be no need for the work of the cross, Jesus' death would be in vain and completely void of power to save.

The affirmation that Paul gives us is one of absolute certainty, without reservation on the part of God and total commitment to finishing the work is without apprehension on the part of God. The Lord knew that when he started to work inside of you it was called a good work. Why is it called the good work, it is because God is good and everything that he does is good. The work that he started was not by the agency, or the will of man, God gives us the power to become children of God. No man decided to do this it was totally given and worked by God. It is a work of grace and we simply must receive it humbly. Jn. 1:12-13.

### **God will perform it**

Think about the term in that verse of Scripture, "God will perform it" not only will God do the work, but he will do it to his perfection. The work performed or finish in the Greek word means to; carry it forward to completion, this word is intensive meaning that it would be carried through to the end, this is the work of the Spirit of God and not the effort of man.

It's a shame when we launched out to do something and don't finish it. You've heard the term, "great starter but never finishes" or something to that fact. How many of us, and we must be absolutely honest, we start something but we never finish it. I have to be the first one to throw both hands in the air and say, "yes that's me at times" but God is not like that, he has all the tools and the resources to bring us to perfection according to his will. Why would God start something and not finish it, this would be an embarrassment to him. God created the earth and he supplied everything that the Earth needed to be sustained, no man helped God to create creation. Likewise no man helped God to give his Son on the cross, and then give him the resources to start the work in us so that we can become like Christ.

The work that he is doing inside of you is going to turn out beautiful. Although many people may disagree, one thing is for certain, and that is God is working in you to make you a trophy, a monument and a pleasure of his grace. You are a precious vessel in the hand of God, you are his delight and his good pleasure, you were created in the image of Christ and you are beautiful in his sight. God will finish the work that he started in you!

See Jn 10:27,28,29, Heb 6:17-20. Comp. Rom 8:29,30. (c) "of this very thing" Heb 10:35 (d) "which hath begun" Ps 138:8 (2) "perform" "finish" (e) "work" Heb 10:35 (f) "day of Jesus Christ" 2Pet 3:10

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