

Allowing God to Finish His Work in Us

New Life Lessons
August 27th & 28th, 2011
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Day One – Philippians 1:6. For many of us, the older we get the more sure we are about fewer things. Our certainties are fewer, but stronger! What are you “certain of” these days? Paul was certain of God’s faithfulness to finish what He’s begun in us. Take a moment to think about yourself as “unfinished” and think about your weaknesses as areas in which God is and will be working. It will take time, but God’s work will be completed when Christ comes again.

Pray and thank God that He loves you, and is committed to your growth and full salvation. Ask Him to help you cooperate with His work in you through trust and obedience.

Day Two – Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. Do you have “new birth” and are you living with a “living hope?” 1 Peter 3:15 says that when we really make Jesus the Lord of our lives, the result will be hope ... to the degree that we must be ready to explain why we are so hopeful! Do you have this kind of hope? If not, think about the areas of your life where maybe you haven’t made Jesus Lord.

Pray and ask God to help you surrender every area of your life fully to Him. Ask Him to help you hope in Him alone and be able to face the future with confidence as by faith you are shielded by God’s power.

Day Three – Read 1 Peter 1:6-11. Can you relate to the “refining fires?” How has your faith been tested, refined and strengthened by tough times? Read James 1:3-4 & Romans 5:3-5. What are the situations in your life right now that you can rejoice in, knowing that though them God is working for your good (Romans 8:28)? Think about your future “inheritance” actually being the “glory” of God that Christ will bring back with him. All we know at this point is that it will be awesome!

Pray and ask God to help you live with hope in His promises and trust in His Word. Regardless of how dark things may appear to be now, we are headed for “Glory!” God will finish what He’s begun in us! Christ will make all things new!

“God Will Finish What He’s Begun”

The Power of God’s Promises #9

Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:1-11

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) ⁶ I am **certain** that **God**, who began the good work within you, **will continue his work until** it is **finally finished on the day** when **Christ Jesus returns**.

“A Promise is a Declaration that gives Assurance,

And, upon which Expectation is Based.”

What is The Power of a Promise?

- **Source?** “*Who makes it?*”
- **Subject?** “*To whom is it made?*”
- **Outcome?** “*What will happen?*”
- **Conditions?** “*What must happen first?*”

In Whom Does God Begin His Work?

1 Peter 1:1-2 (NIV) ¹ Peter, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ, To **God's elect, strangers** in the world, **scattered** ... ² who have been **chosen** according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, through **the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:** Grace and peace be yours in abundance. Ephesians 1:4-5

Elect Chosen Foreknowledge Predestined

John 1:12 (NIV) ¹² To **all** who **received** him, to those who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to **become** children of God. Romans 9:11-13; Exodus 10:27; John 3:16; 7:37 - 38; Titus 2:11; 1 John 2:2; 2 Peter 1:10; 3:9

How Will God Finish What He's Begun?

1. According to His Plan.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV) ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.** Ephesians 2:1, 4-5; John 3:14-15; 4:10

⁴ And **into an inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade--**kept in heaven for you,** ⁵ who **through faith** are **shielded** by God's power **until** the coming of **the salvation** that is ready to be **revealed** in **the last time.** Revelation 5:10

Philippians 2:12b-13 (NIV) ^{12b} Continue to **work out** your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for **it is God who works** in you to will and to act **according to his good purpose.** Jeremiah 29:11, 13; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 John 3:17-18; 2 Timothy 1:12b; 4:7-8

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV) ⁹ You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people belonging to God,** that you may **declare the praises** of him who **called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.** 1 Peter 2:5; Titus 2:14

“To Create a People”

2. Actively Fulfilling His Will.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV) ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while **you may have had to suffer grief** in all kinds of trials. James 1:3-4; Romans 5:3-5

“Suffering > Perseverance > Character”

⁷ **These** (trials) **have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold,** which perishes even though refined by fire--**may be proved genuine** and may **result in praise, glory and honor** when **Jesus Christ is revealed.** Romans 12:1-2

“To Build Our Character”

3. Achieving Our Full Salvation.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ Though you have not seen him, **you love him;** and even though you do not see him now, **you believe in him** and are **filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,** ⁹ for you are **receiving the goal of your faith,** the **salvation of your souls.** (soul – *psychē* “life breath; vitality”)

Heart/Spirit

Psalm 51:10,17; 86:11
Ezekiel 36:26; Matthew 12:35

Body

Romans 12:1
1 Thessalonians 4:4

Mind

Romans 12:2; 8:6
Isaiah 26:3

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NIV) ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, **sanctify you through and through.** May your whole **spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ **The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.** Matthew 16:26; Ephesians 5:18b

“To Make Us Holy”

4. Accomplishing His Promise.

1 Peter 1:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the **prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you,** searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which **the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing** when he predicted the **sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.** Isaiah 53:4-6, 11; 9:7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 24:30; 25:31; John 17:24; Ephesians 3:21; Romans 8:18, 21; Hebrews 10:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:1-4

“To Bring Us to Glory”

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) ⁶ I am certain that **God, who began the good work within you,** will **continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.**