

Philippians 2: Under Construction, But Not Abandoned

Dr. John Carmichael

[Phi 1:6 NASB95] 6 [For I am] confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

- Ever seen a building with scaffolding but no workers? That's not how God works. You may not always see it but the Holy Spirit is actively working in your life.
- There's a divine construction project going on inside every believer. The moment you gave your life to Christ, God began a good work in you. But He didn't just start it and walk away; He promised to complete it. The Holy Spirit is the master builder, and He's still on the job.
- Greek Exegesis:
 - "I am confident" (πεποιθώς εἰμι) - A strong, settled persuasion. Paul is not merely hopeful, he is firmly convinced.
 - "He who began" (ὁ ἐναρξάμενος) – God began the work at our invitation.
 - "Good work" (ἔργον ἀγαθόν) - Refers to God's transformative work of salvation, sanctification, and mission both personally and corporately.
 - "Will complete it" (ἐπιτελέσει) - Means to bring to full maturity or perfect fulfillment. God doesn't start a project and leave it half-done.
 - "Until the day of Christ Jesus" - A reference to the Second Coming, anchoring the believer's growth in an eschatological hope. God's work in us is ongoing until the final return of Jesus.

What does Philippians 1:6 teach us about God's work in our lives?

Here are four important truths from Philippians 1:6 about how God works in our lives.

I. God Is the Author and Finisher of Our Faith.

- a. The same God who saved you is committed to finishing what He started. He didn't bring you this far to leave you hanging.
- b. The Holy Spirit is both the initiator and the completer of the transformation process.
- c. Hebrews 12:2 - Jesus is the "author and perfecter {finisher}" of our faith. [Heb 12:2 NASB95] 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- d. Isaiah 46:10 - God declares the end from the beginning. [Isa 46:10 NASB95] 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

II. The Process May Be Hidden, But It's Holy.

- a. Ecclesiastes 3:11 - "He has made everything appropriate in its time..." [Ecc 3:11 NASB95] 11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.
- b. There are seasons where we don't see immediate progress. But the work is happening: deeply, silently, powerfully.
- c. The Spirit often works beneath the surface before revealing glory above it.
- d. 2 Corinthians 4:16 - "though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day." [2Co 4:16 NASB95] 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

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- e. Romans 8:28 - All things are working together for your good. [Rom 8:28 NASB95] 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to [His] purpose.

III. Our Role in the Process: Participate, Don't Spectate.

- a. Philippians 2:12–13 - "...work out your salvation...for it is God who works in you..." [Phl 2:12-13 NASB95] 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure.
- b. God does the work, but we must cooperate. Spiritual growth is not passive. There are disciplines we must embrace.
- c. The Spirit is your helper—not your replacement.
- d. Believers must:
 - i. Pray Daily – Luke 18:1 – Always pray and not lose heart. [Luk 18:1 NASB95] 1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,
 - ii. Read the Word Daily – Joshua 1:8 – Meditate on it day and night. [Jos 1:8 NASB95] 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
 - iii. Engage in the Local Church – Hebrews 10:25 – Do not forsake assembling. [Heb 10:25 NASB95] 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging [one another;] and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- e. If you want the fire to keep burning, you must feed it!"

IV. The Best Is Yet to Come! He Will Finish It!

- a. Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:30 [Rom 8:30 NASB95] 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.
- b. You may feel stuck now, but the promise is clear: completion is coming. The Holy Spirit always finishes what He starts.
- c. The anointing doesn't fade—it builds toward a glorious climax.
- d. [1Th 5:24 NASB95] 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
- e. [Rom 8:18 NASB95] 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- **What God starts, He sustains, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, He finishes!**
- **You're not a spiritual drop-out. You're under construction. God is not finished with you—and the Spirit is closer than you know. Don't give up in the process. Trust the hands of the Master Builder.**
- **He will finish what He started in power and fire! Get back in alignment; cooperate with the Builder. God's not done! Don't walk off the job site!**