

## **GROW: God Finishes What He Starts**

**Dr. John Carmichael**

**[Phl 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.**

- We've spent weeks talking about growth. Growing in the Word, in prayer, in the Spirit, and in the church.
- Some people feel like: "I'm not where I should be"; "I've made too many mistakes"; "I'm not growing fast enough"
- And the enemy whispers: "You're unfinished... and you'll stay that way."
- But Paul speaks with absolute confidence: "He who began a good work in you... will complete it."
- David Guzik notes that Paul was confident not only in the beginning of God's work, but in its completion.
- Charles Spurgeon emphasizes that God never abandons what He starts. He is a finisher.

**If God started something in me, can I really trust Him to finish it; even when I feel incomplete?**

**Philippians 1:6 shows us that growth is not just about our effort; it is about God's faithful work in us from beginning to completion.**

### **I. GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF YOUR GROWTH**

- [Phl 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.
- [Heb 12:1-2 NASB95] 1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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.
- He is Alpha and Omega (Greek 1<sup>st</sup> and last letter). He is the A to Z. The beginning to end.
- Your growth did not start with you; it started with God.
- Salvation is initiated by God. Transformation is initiated by God.
- The work is described as: "a good work"
- Rooted in the Father's goodness, accomplished through the Son, and sustained by the Spirit.
- Application: Stop taking credit for what God started. Stop trusting yourself more than God. Rest in the reality: "God began this in me"
- You didn't start it; so you don't have to sustain it alone.
- If God started it, it's already good; even if it's not finished.

### **II. GOD IS ACTIVELY WORKING IN YOU NOW**

- [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.
- [Heb 13:21 NASB95] 21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom [be] the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- God is not just working on you; He is working in you.

## **GROW: God Finishes What He Starts**

**Dr. John Carmichael**

- d. There is a divine partnership: You work and God works.
- e. Your responsibility: Obedience. God's responsibility: Transformation.
- f. From the Fire Bible emphasis: God works in those who remain loyal and dependent on Him.
- g. Application: Stay surrendered daily. Keep showing up spiritually (Word, prayer, church). Don't resist the work of the Spirit.
- h. When you cooperate, God accelerates.

### **III. GOD IS COMMITTED TO COMPLETION**

- a. [Phl 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.
- b. [Psa 138:8 NASB95] 8 The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.
- c. God is not a starter. He is a finisher.
- d. Spurgeon's insight: Show me one unfinished work of God.
- e. No unfinished creation. No abandoned purpose. No incomplete design.
- f. God always finishes what He starts.
- g. Application: Stop quitting on yourself. Stop believing you'll never change. Trust God's process.
- h. Your story is not over. God has never abandoned a work—and He's not about to start with you.

### **IV. GROWTH IS A PROCESS, NOT AN EVENT**

- a. [2Co 3:18 NASB95] 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
- b. [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.
- c. Growth takes time. You won't arrive overnight. You won't be perfected instantly.
- d. The timeline: "Until the day of Christ Jesus"
- e. Your whole life is part of the process. Completion comes at His return.
- f. New Bible Commentary: Our lives are moving toward the moment we stand before Christ mature and unashamed.
- g. Application: Be patient with yourself. Stay consistent. Celebrate progress.
- h. Progress over perfection. God is not rushing your growth, but He is committed to it.

### **V. THE END IS GLORY, NOT FAILURE**

- a. [1Jo 3:2 NASB95] 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
- b. [Col 1:28 NASB95] 28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.
- c. The "day of Christ" is not fear. It is hope.
- d. From Life in the Spirit Commentary: What was once a day of judgment is now a day of anticipation for believers.
- e. The goal: maturity, completion, Christlikeness.
- f. Application: Live with eternity in mind. Make decisions that will matter then. Stay focused on becoming like Christ.
- g. You are not just growing. You are being prepared. God is not just working for your now; He's preparing you for eternity.

## **GROW: God Finishes What He Starts**

**Dr. John Carmichael**

- **God is not just the author of your growth; He is the finisher of it.**
- Heaven sees you as: a work that has begun, a work that is continuing, a work that will be completed.
- God is not done with you. Not even close.