

## God Promises He Will Complete The Good Work He Started In Us

**Opener:** What's something (good or bad) someone said that's stuck with you over the years?

**Scripture:** <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. . . . <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup>so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:3-6; 9-11

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-14

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:12-14

### Discussion Questions

1. To understand and apply what Paul is describing, let's start with what "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion" means. "He" is God Himself. "Began a good work in you" refers to salvation. "Carry it on to completion" refers to His goal for us, which is wholeness in Christ, or Christlikeness. Why wouldn't we be Christlike in every respect when we're first saved? Philippians 1:6
2. How do past experiences affect our growth in Christ? If we realize that past experiences are keeping us from the freedom and wholeness in Christ that He wants us to have, how do we process them in ways that free us from their power over us? Philippians 3:13
3. How do relationships affect our growth in Christ? If we realize they're keeping us from freedom and wholeness in Christ, how can we deal with them? How would dealing with a toxic or unhealthy relationship with a family member or spouse be different than if it was with a friend or co-worker?
4. Paul refers to love that abounds in knowledge and insight, discernment, and the fruit of righteousness. How does all this contribute to wholeness in Christ? Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11
5. Growing in Christ is about more than resolving personal issues. It also requires an outward focus that ministers to others. How does fellowship with other believers and God's word affect our growth in Christ and give us opportunities to serve? Can we reach our potential in Christ without them?
6. With all that in mind, how does continuing to work out our salvation describe the process that begins when we accept Jesus as our Savior and illustrate how we press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us? Philippians 2:12; 3:12

**Wrap Up:** Think about the difference between Teflon and Velcro. Things slide right off Teflon, but they stick tight to Velcro. Throughout life things are thrown at us—some good, some bad. Often the bad sticks tight while the good slides off. Growing in Christ means we flip the script on what stays and what goes. With Jesus we begin to learn that things like healing, love, joy, peace and discernment stick, while hurts, injustices, and bad influences slide away. And so we grow into the freedom He died to give us and trust that He will keep His promise to complete the good work He started in us.