

0190 052 Three tests you can take to see if He has begun in you an absolute good work.
08/08/97 Mat 7:15-23; Jam 2:17-19; 1Jo 3:14-20; 4:7; 2:18-20; Heb 6:17-19

Summary

The discussion centers on Philippians 1:6, emphasizing that God has begun an absolute good work in believers and will complete it. Key points include the importance of faith with works, impersonal unconditional love, and maintaining hope in God's plan. McLaughlin outlines three tests for confirming God's work: operative faith, laborious love, and unwavering hope. He stresses that believers should not rely on their own efforts but trust in God's ability to complete the work. The conversation also touches on the stages of salvation: justification, sanctification, and glorification, highlighting the role of the Holy Spirit in each.

- **Moment of Silent Prayer and Introduction to Philippians 1:6** [0:06](#)
 - McLaughlin initiates a moment of silent prayer for preparation to fellowship with God through the study of His Word.
 - The prayer is directed to God and Jesus Christ, asking for guidance and direction in the study of the Bible.
 - McLaughlin reads and explains Philippians 1:6, emphasizing that God has begun an absolute good work in believers and will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - The five principles discussed include God's plan for every church age believer, the importance of spiritual maturity, and the distinction between works and spiritual advancement.
- **God's Plan and Logistical Support** [2:57](#)
 - McLaughlin explains that God has a plan for every church age believer, with the ultimate objective being spiritual maturity.
 - Works or production are not the means of spiritual advancement but are the result of a believer advancing.
 - Legalism, which makes works or production the means of spiritual advancement, is considered blasphemy.
 - God provides logistical support for believers, ensuring they have everything they need to grow spiritually.
- **Divine Objectives and Daily Doctrine Intake** [6:12](#)
 - McLaughlin states that divine objectives are accomplished through daily intake of Bible doctrine.
 - Philippians 4:6 is mentioned as a verse that teaches eternal security, emphasizing that believers cannot lose their salvation.
 - The fifth principle is that believers must be confident that God has begun an absolute good work within them.
 - McLaughlin highlights the importance of understanding that God, not the believer, is responsible for completing the good work.

- **Tests for Confirming God's Work [13:08](#)**
 - McLaughlin introduces three tests to confirm if God has begun a good work within a believer.
 - The first test is whether a believer's faith is operative, as described in James 2:17-19.
 - The second test is whether a believer has impersonal, unconditional love for other believers, as described in 1 John 3:14.
 - The third test is whether a believer maintains hope and confidence in God's plan, despite challenges and persecutions.
- **Hope and Confidence in God's Plan [25:29](#)**
 - McLaughlin emphasizes the importance of having hope and confidence in God's plan for a believer's life.
 - He mentions that many believers quit when faced with challenges, but true believers persevere.
 - 1 John 2:18-19 is cited to illustrate that some who leave the faith were not truly believers in the first place.
 - McLaughlin explains that true believers will have faith with works, impersonal unconditional love, and hope in God's plan.
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit and Justification [35:55](#)**
 - McLaughlin discusses the role of the Holy Spirit in the first stage of salvation, including calling, convincing, baptizing, and sealing believers.
 - He explains that justification is the first stage of salvation, where believers receive perfect righteousness and positional truth.
 - The second stage of salvation is sanctification, where believers set themselves apart for the Lord.
 - The third stage is glorification, where believers will be presented holy and righteous before God.
- **Confidence in God's Completion of the Work [50:18](#)**
 - McLaughlin reiterates that believers can be confident that God will complete the good work He has begun in them.
 - He cites various scriptures to support this confidence, including Hebrews 12:2 and 1 Samuel 12:22.
 - McLaughlin emphasizes that God's work is not dependent on human effort but on His faithfulness and power.
 - He concludes by encouraging believers to work with God in their sanctification and to trust in His completion of the good work.