

Title: I've Got Confidence: Letting God Finish What He Started

Sermon Summary: Drawing from Philippians 1:6 and Hebrews 10:35-36, this sermon calls believers to maintain an unwavering confidence not in themselves but in God, who completes every work He begins. The preacher challenges the congregation to resist the temptation to measure God's faithfulness by present circumstances, reminding them that difficulty, mess, and delay are often signs of divine construction rather than divine abandonment. Using the imagery of a construction site, the message declares that what looks like chaos is actually the necessary process of God building something greater. The sermon urges believers to hold fast to a mature, unconditional praise and to trust that if God started something in their lives, it is already done in the spirit. Biblical figures including Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Esther, Job, Peter, Paul, and Jesus Himself are offered as witnesses that letting God finish always leads to breakthrough.

Key Points:

- Confidence in God is distinct from self-confidence; faith declares what God can do, not merely what we can do
- Believers must not allow a defeated moment to become a defeated mentality
- The "by now" mindset is dangerous and must be replaced with a "but God" perspective
- A mature praise is not contingent on circumstances, feelings, or outcomes
- God never begins anything He does not intend to finish, as affirmed in Philippians 1:6
- Seasons of mess and difficulty often signal that God is actively at work, much like a construction site appears worse before a new structure rises
- The struggles believers face are often necessary for the refining process, producing something greater on the other side
- Our confidence rests entirely in God, not in ourselves, because in our flesh dwells no good thing
- Letting God finish requires patience, trust, and a willingness to endure the process without abandoning faith

Scripture Reference:

- Philippians 1:6, which affirms that God, who began a good work in believers, will carry it through to completion
- Hebrews 10:35-36, which warns against throwing away confidence and calls for patient endurance to receive the promise
- Isaiah 46:10, which speaks to God's knowledge of the end from the beginning
- Isaiah 55:8-9, which distinguishes God's thoughts and ways from human understanding
- Romans 7:18, which acknowledges that no good thing dwells in human flesh apart from God
- Psalm 27:5, referenced in the context of God hiding His people in times of trouble
- 1 Peter 1:5-6, which speaks of believers being kept by God's power through manifold trials

Stories:

- The preacher recounts a family vacation in Florida approximately fourteen years prior, during which his young daughter Kendall, wearing floaties, attempted to swim across a pool. Her floaties slipped off and she went under. Her uncle pulled her out in time, and after a hospital

stay, when the family expressed concern, Kendall responded with complete confidence, saying she could swim and that she had only drowned for a little bit. The preacher uses this story to illustrate how believers must refuse to allow a bad experience to rewrite their confession or diminish their confidence in who God made them to be.

- Brief references to biblical figures are made to demonstrate the reward of letting God finish: Abraham becoming the father of a nation, Moses leading Israel, Joshua entering the Promised Land, David becoming king, Esther saving her people, Job's latter days surpassing his former, Peter transforming from a denying disciple into a Pentecostal preacher, Paul becoming an apostle, and Jesus surrendering to the Father's will and rising on the third day.