

# From Beginning To End: Part 7

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Philippians 1:6 NLT

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

As we are approaching the end of this series we will begin to transition to the latter of our flagship scripture. This series has been purposed to show us the progression of how we grow and mature from beginning to end.

1. In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And He created light and separated it from the darkness. The same call that each of us have been created for. The beginning of our walk with God is to be separated from dark. To be separated from dark is to simply walk in the light.
2. As a seed dies to the outer shell, what is within begins to come forth. A root is developed and roots serve 2 purposes. In this case the purpose is to feed. If we fail to feed then the seed dies. A plant cannot produce fruit without roots. We must develop a hunger for Gods word and allow it to cause those roots to grow deeper.
3. Deep roots or taking root: Removing the rock and hard ground within our life that causes the seed (the word of God) to be shallow within our lives. This is a process. Deep roots take place as we grow roots. We must be lovers of righteousness and haters of lawlessness. Deep roots is what keeps a plant stable.
4. As these plant (we) begin to grow deeper roots a exponential growth takes place and fruit beginnings to manifest. The fruit proves the kind of plant that it is. Statistics says that in 2025 that there were 225 million people in America that proclaimed the faith of Christianity. The sad part to this number is that only 94 million read their bible once a week. And of that 94 million only 34 million believed the accuracy of the bible. Studies show that nothing happens spiritually happens when we read once, twice or three times a week. The real truth of evidence takes place when we read four or more times a week. But on 4.8 million (2.13% of professing Christians) people read four or more. And now it is obvious why the church is in the state of dormancy. The fruit reveals what's actually happening beneath the surface. The fruit tells us where our heart truly is.
5. Accepting God appointed suffering. Not the kind of suffering that we inflict upon ourselves. The kind of suffering that makes us one with Christ. The kind of suffering that brings death to our spiritual man. Accepting what God has appointed allows us to move into the more that He has called us to.
6. In the Midst of Suffering: This is where the storm is raging. It seems as all hope is lost and that any minute now the whole thing is going to come tumbling down. Our whole world is shaking and chaos is out of control. But if we look at the core of

what shaking does we will find that the benefits are sobering. Shaking does 5 things:

- Shaking brings us closer to the foundation.
- To remove what is dead
- To harvest what is ripe
- To awaken
- To unify or mix together so that it is no longer separated

We are pressed, perplexed, hunted, knocked down but we are not crushed, despaired, abandoned, or destroyed. We are victorious despite what we face. When we feel like giving up we ask ourselves 2 questions. Have I considered the cost? And do I still have faith?

God has promised to be with us every step of the way through this process but we must remain in Him. Today we will illuminate the end of this process.

John 9:1–3 NLT

1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” 3 “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.

This story alone answers the questions that so many ask but yet fail to see the answer. How many of us have heard the question, “Why do bad things happen to good people”? How often have you agreed with this statement? Maybe we are the ones asking this very question but today the challenge will move our carnal mindset to that of God. The challenge to bring our thoughts up to His way of thinking. The challenge is that it is no longer “Why me” but “What is God revealing about himself through this”.

Here’s how the framework of God’s glorification through suffering, as exemplified in John 9, speaks to that question:

**1. It refutes the punitive assumption:** The common impulse behind “Why do bad things happen to good people?” is often the belief that suffering is a direct consequence of sin or a sign of divine displeasure. Jesus explicitly dismantles this in John 9, stating that the man’s blindness was not due to his sin or his parents’ sin. This immediately challenges the idea that suffering is always a punishment.

**2. It shifts the focus from cause to purpose:** Instead of dwelling on why the suffering occurred in terms of human fault, Jesus redirects the disciples (and us) to God’s ultimate purpose: “but that the works of God might be displayed in him.” This

moves the conversation from a search for blame to a search for divine intention and opportunity for revelation.

**3. It highlights God's sovereignty and redemptive power:** Even in situations that appear tragic or senseless from a human perspective, God is sovereign and can use them for His glory. This doesn't mean God causes evil or suffering in a direct, malicious way, but that He can redeem and transform even the darkest circumstances to reveal His character, power, and love. The "bad thing" (blindness) becomes the stage for a "good thing" (God's miraculous work and glory).

**4. It offers a framework for meaning beyond human understanding:** For those grappling with suffering, this perspective offers meaning that transcends their immediate pain or inability to comprehend the "why." It invites them to look beyond their personal experience to a larger divine narrative where God is actively working, even through hardship, to bring about His ultimate purposes and display His glory.

John 9:35–39 NLT

35 When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 The man answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him." 37 "You have seen him," Jesus said, "and he is speaking to you!" 38 "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus. 39 Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind."

The tables turn for one reason only. So that the power of GOD could be seen. The word for power is translated as "work" "deed or act". The reference that Jesus used for work is "working". This implies that it is in the process, it is in the making right before our very eyes. And this process points to God. This process causes the blind to see. This process supersedes what the world sees. This process defies what our natural eyes see.

To give sight to the blind. Opening the eyes of the blind is a feat that had never been done before. This man blindness/suffering was so that God could be seen. So that the glory of God could become visible to those that are blind and to proof that those that think they see are really blind.

John 9:4–5 NLT

4 We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. 5 But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."

This same work that Jesus spoke about has been assigned to each of us. To work with a sense of urgency. To work while there is time. To reflect what we are seeing. We must operate in such a way that the light is being reflected.

#### Galatians 6:7–9 NLT

7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. 9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

There is a reward for both the sinful and the righteous. One will reap death and the other everlasting life. This reward is based off of how we live to please God. Have we built for ourselves an empire that will only reflect our heart? How have we stewarded the call to righteousness? How have we impacted the Kingdom of God? These are questions that we must self-reflect with in every decision of every day. Are we persevering so that the power of God can be seen by those that are blind?

#### John 11:1–5 NLT

1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. 2 This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. 3 So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick." 4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." 5 So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus,

Many of us know that Lazarus did die although Jesus proclaimed that his sickness would not lead to death. Did Jesus lie to His disciples? If we look at it from a human stance then we would have to say that He did. But we all know that His words carried depth that is beyond the flesh. Jesus said that Lazarus's sickness was not the kind that resulted in death. Jesus spoke of a death that caused us to be separated from God. And this was not the death the Lazarus was experiencing. This distinction that Jesus makes is profound: death becomes truly destructive only when it separates the soul from God. Lazarus did experience a physical death, yet this was not a spiritual death because his soul remained bound to God through grace rather than severed by sin.

#### John 11:17–27 NLT

17 When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. 18 Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, 19 and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. 20 When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed

in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day." 25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. 26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God."

Everyone who lives in me will never die. Even in the midst of suffering and death, Jesus reassures us that death has no power. Death is not the end but the beginning of life. From beginning to end is better understood as from the end to the beginning. We must first die before we can be resurrected. Our thinking is backwards. We think that we can have life without dying but we must die to live.

John 11:33–43 NLT

33 When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. 34 "Where have you put him?" he asked them. They told him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Then Jesus wept. 36 The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" 37 But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?" 38 Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. 39 "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible." 40 Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" 41 So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." 43 Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

Do you remember the blind man that we were just talking about a few minutes ago? The one that was blind from birth. The one that the disciples asked was his blindness from his or his parent's sin. But Jesus replied that it was purposed that the power of God was revealed. Are we starting to see the picture here? There is purpose to everything that God appoints. This was not just another miracle that we read within scripture but the working of God. His ways are higher than our way and his thoughts are higher than our thoughts. We must elevate our ways and our thinking. His ways are methodical and systematic. All that he does was planned out before we were born. This is why we declare that He has our best interest at heart. It is purposed to cause the eyes of the blind to be opened.

The power of God became visible in Jerusalem and when Jesus had disturb so many religious people theology he crossed over the Jordan and took refuge in Bethabara.

But you know what is so profound about Bethabara? The translation of Bethabara is Bethany. And where did Lazarus death happen? In Bethany! Yes these are two different Bethany's but the mean of Bethany is "the house of the Lord

This is where Jesus begin His ministry. And while Bethabara means the place of crossing. The place where Jesus begin crossing over to new life and purpose by accepting the will and plan of God. This is where Jesus began His surrender so that God could be glorified.

The place of Lazarus death, Bethany, means the house of affliction. Jesus travel from Bethany to Bethany. From Beginning to End. A place where the End and the Beginning is a call to bring Glory to God by first dying. Jesus begin His crossing over in Bethany/Bethabara by Baptism and in Bethany raised Lazarus from the death. The glory of God revealed. From Beginning to End.

Death is conquered by resurrection. The glory will outlast the suffering. But don't mistake that death is a part of God's plan. The glory of God is not just found in our resurrection but also in our death.

Let me pray with you today!