

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, August 14, 2022
The Book of Philippians

Message Summary:

This week in our series, The Book of Philippians, Pastor John Carter taught us again out of Philippians 1:6-7:

[Phil. 1:6-7 NKJV] 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

When God saved you and began a good work in you, He created a new spirit in you. And the Holy Spirit came to make His home in you, to lead you, guide you and help you in this life (John 14). But God didn't just *do* something when he began that good work. Yes, when you were saved, it was once and done. But now God is *doing* something in you. That means that you and God are in a process together. He is at work in you, even now. And that work will continue until God completes it at the day of Jesus Christ. God will never quit on you!

Part of that good work includes Jesus, who now sits at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for us and praying for us. We need to receive by faith every prayer that Jesus has made concerning us. That the good works that are in process in us will be completed, just as Jesus is praying. Paul tells us in verse 7 that this is the right way for us to think. Paul could say this with such confidence, that God would finish His good work in His people, because He knew we were chained to the Father as partakers of the grace that Jesus had purchased with His blood. To "partake" means to eat or drink of the same thing. We are partakers of the grace of Jesus because we have believed in His saving work on the cross. This is the reason we can be confident that God's love is greater than all our sin!

Other Scriptures:

[Eph. 4:22-24 NKJV] 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

[John 1:16-17 NKJV] 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does it matter that it is God who will complete this good work in us?
2. How does that stir up your confidence in God who is at work in you?
3. What does it mean to be "partakers of grace?" How has the grace of God changed your life?

Life Application:

This week, as you reread through the first chapter of Philippians, focus in on our key verses for today, 6-7. Pastor John said, "Grace is not reversible. Once you have become a partaker of grace, it can never be taken away from you. It is the great gift that has been given to you through Jesus Christ." If you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the gift of grace is yours...always! It can never be taken away from you and it is your guarantee that you belong to God. It also means that you can have confidence that God who is at work in you will complete that good work! So, if you at all question your value, your purpose or your salvation because you struggle with sins in your life, you can be assured and confident that NOTHING can separate you from God because grace keeps you! Let that truth minister to you this week, in Jesus' name!