

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, August 7, 2022 The Book of Philippians

Message Summary:

This week in our series, The Book of Philippians, Pastor John Carter taught us out of Philippians 1:6-8:

[Phil. 1:6-8 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. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

When someone is confident, they are actually saying that they have examined the evidence, they have considered all the options, and they are persuaded that something is true. This is what Paul is saying here. Paul knew God would complete what he started because he had seen it to be true in his own life. His confidence wasn't in the Philippians' ability to do something, he was confident in Christ and His ability to complete the good work He had started in His people. Paul's faith was grounded in Christ.

When God saves His children, He does not quit working in their lives until they are finished and complete. As humans, we like to attach works or rules to this. That means there is something we have to do to earn our salvation, our free relationship with Jesus. Mostly out of the belief that anything free is not truly free. Surely, there must be something we have to *do* to earn this free gift. But that is not how salvation works. Was there work that needed to be done to offer the free gift of salvation? Yes, there was. And it was the work that Christ did on the cross. His death purchased grace for us and when we receive Him as Lord and Savior, we then receive the grace His death purchased for us. The work of salvation was completed by Jesus, and now He is working in our lives to bring us to completion, too. What He started in us, He will finish.

Other Scriptures:

[1 Thess. 5:23-24 NKJV] 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

[1 Cor. 1:8 NKJV] 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Paul mean by "the good work" that Jesus would complete in us?
2. What are you believing for God to complete in you?
3. Why is it important that you have an attitude of confidence that God is working in your life?

Life Application:

This week, as you reread through the first chapter of Philippians, focus in on our key verses for today, 6-8. Pastor John said, "Being a Christian is not just a decision to follow a moral code; it is a decision to receive the free gift of Jesus Christ in you, and that gift initiates the good work Christ wants to do in you." What are you believing for Christ to do in you? Are you confident that Christ can and will work in you? Do you really believe that as a new creation in Jesus, you can and you will change? Remember, Paul said Jesus will complete the good work He started in you. That means as a new creation in Jesus, you need to walk, talk and behave like you are totally convinced that Jesus is working in you and He will complete His good work in you.