

Summary

In this sermon from Philippians 1:6, Pastor Steve Yates explores the concept of "God's part in the good work." He explains that God is in the process of sanctifying believers - transforming them back to their original design before the world shaped them differently. The pastor emphasizes that God knew each person before they were formed and has appointed them for specific purposes, despite their own feelings of inadequacy or past mistakes. Through personal stories and biblical references, he encourages the congregation to stop negative self-talk and instead allow God to reshape their thinking and identity.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your good work in our lives, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to Your truth. Help us to see ourselves as You see us - not defined by our past mistakes or the world's influence, but by Your perfect design and purpose. Give us the courage to be honest with one another and the wisdom to apply what we learn today. May this discussion draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you wanted to be when you were a child, and how does that compare to what you're doing now?

Key Verses

1. Philippians 1:6
2. Jeremiah 1:4-7
3. Romans 12:2
4. 2 Chronicles 7:14
5. Psalm 37:24

Questions

1. The pastor talked about how the world reshapes us from our original design. In what ways do you feel the world has tried to reshape you away from God's original design?
2. What does it mean to you personally that God knew you before you were formed in the womb?
3. The sermon emphasized that God is sanctifying us - setting us apart for His purposes. What areas of your life do you feel God is currently working to sanctify?
4. Pastor Steve shared his car story as an example of God working in unexpected ways. Can you share a time when God worked in your life in a way you weren't expecting?
5. How does negative self-talk impact your spiritual life, and what practical steps can you take to replace it with God's truth?

6. The pastor said, "Your worst enemy is you." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
7. What excuses do you find yourself giving God about why you can't fulfill His purpose for your life?
8. How might our community look different if we truly believed we were "the edge of the spear" that the world needs right now, as the pastor suggested?

Life Application

This week, pay attention to your self-talk and the excuses you make that limit what God can do through you. Each time you catch yourself saying "I can't" or "I'm not enough," pause and replace that thought with the truth from Philippians 1:6 that God is working in you and will complete what He started. Write down these moments in a journal, along with the biblical truth that counters each negative thought. At the end of the week, review your journal and pray specifically about the areas where you struggle most to believe God's perspective about yourself.

Key Takeaways

1. God is doing a good work in believers by transforming them back to their original design and purpose.
2. Before we were formed in the womb, God knew us, consecrated us, and appointed us for specific purposes.
3. Our negative self-talk and excuses often prevent us from fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.
4. The church is meant to be the solution the world needs - the "edge of the spear" that impacts culture.
5. Sanctification is an ongoing process where God sets more of us aside for His purposes.

Ending Prayer

Lord God, thank You for the reminder that You are actively working in our lives to restore us to Your original design. We confess that we often limit what You can do through us with our negative self-talk and excuses. Help us to see ourselves as You see us - known before birth, consecrated, and appointed for Your purposes. Give us the courage to step into the good work You've prepared for us, trusting that You will complete what You've started. May we leave this discussion with renewed minds and hearts that are open to Your transforming work. In Jesus' name, amen.