

God Will Finish What He Started

Written in Chains

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OPENING QUESTION

When you hear Paul talk about ‘choosing joy no matter what,’ what’s one everyday situation where that feels really hard for you right now?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Main Reading(s):

Philippians 1:1-11

Additional Reading(s):

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Romans 8:28

KEY TAKE AWAY(S)

God will finish what He started in you

Philippians 1:6 – your life with Jesus is God’s ongoing work, and He will carry it to completion.

Choose joy in the middle of discouragement

Like Paul in prison, followers of Jesus can have real joy even in hard circumstances because God is present and working.

You can’t follow Jesus well alone

The Philippian church, and the whole letter, highlight how much we need gospel-centered relationships and unity in the church.

QUESTIONS

1. Where do you see evidence that God has already started a 'good work' in you, and where is it hardest for you to trust that He'll actually finish it?
2. Can you share a time when circumstances were really hard, but you still experienced a deep sense of joy or peace in God? What made the difference in that season?
3. Who has most helped you follow Jesus, and what specifically did they do that made such an impact on your walk with Him?

PRACTICE

“One Sentence of Joy” Practice

Once a day, say or write one sentence that starts with:

“God, I thank you that you’re still working in me, even in _____.”

Fill in the blank with whatever is discouraging or hard that day (work, parenting, health, loneliness, etc.).

Example:

“God, I thank you that you’re still working in me, even in my frustration at work today.”

This ties all three key points together:

Trusting God will finish His work.

Choosing joy right in the middle of discouragement.

Remembering you’re not alone

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You that You began a good work in us and that You promise to carry it on to completion. Help us choose joy in the middle of discouragement, trusting that You are present and working even when we can't see it. Teach us to walk closely with You and with one another as we follow Jesus together.