

# NOT ABANDONED, BUT IN PROGRESS

Source Scripture: Philippians 1:6

***<sup>6</sup> 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***

- Good morning, I want to talk to you about something every believer desperately needs—**confidence in God's faithfulness.**
- How many of us have started something and didn't finish it? A project, a goal, or a commitment? We've all dropped the ball at some point in our lives.
- But what's so good about the GOD we serve is **when God starts something, He finishes it.**
- Today, I want to encourage you with this truth: **You are not an abandoned project. You are a work in progress with a guaranteed completion date.**
- Paul writes to the Philippian church with absolute confidence—not in their ability to complete the work, but in God's commitment to finish what He started.
- Before we dive into verse 6, we need to understand the relationship Paul had with this church.
- The Philippian church was **Paul's joy.** They supported his ministry financially, they prayed for him, and they stood with him even when he was imprisoned.

Philippians 1:3-5

***<sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, <sup>5</sup> For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;***

- Paul wasn't writing to a problematic church (like the Corinthians) or a confused church (like Galatians). He was writing to **faithful partners** in the Gospel.
- Yet even these faithful believers needed to hear this assurance: **God will complete what He started in you.**
- If the Philippians needed this encouragement, **how much more do we?**

### The Greek Word: *Peithōs*

- The phrase "being confident" comes from the Greek word *pepoithōs*, which means **to be convinced v. — to be persuaded or sure of the truthfulness or validity of something.**
- This isn't wishful thinking or positive self-talk. This is a **settled conviction based on the character of God.**
- Paul is saying, **"I am absolutely persuaded, fully convinced, completely certain"** of this truth.
- Notice Paul doesn't say, **"I'm confident in your ability"** or **"I'm confident in your commitment."**
- He says, **"I'm confident in HIM—the One who began the work."**
- Our confidence isn't rooted in our strength—it's anchored in **God's faithfulness.**

### Hebrews 10:23

***<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)***

- When you feel like giving up, remember: **Your completion doesn't depend on your perfection—it depends on His faithfulness.**

### The Greek Word: *Enarchomai*

- "Has begun" is the Greek word *enarchomai*, which means **to begin (start) v. — to take the first step or steps in carrying out an action.**
- But here's what's powerful: This word is in the **aoist tense**, indicating a **specific point in time** when God initiated the work.

### When Did God Begin?

- For some, it was the day you got saved—when you confessed Jesus as Lord.
- For others, it was before the foundation of the world—when God chose you in Christ.

### Ephesians 1:4

***4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,***

- The point is **God started your transformation at some specific point. You didn't wake up one day and decide to pursue God on your own; He pursued you first.**

**John 6:44**

***44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.***

- If God initiated the work, **He takes responsibility for its completion.**

**The Greek Word: *Ergon Agathon***

- "Good work" is ***ergon agathon*** in Greek. Work meaning: a product produced or accomplished through the effort or activity or agency of a person or thing. Good meaning good (moral) adj. — of moral excellence.

**"a work of excellence"**

**Ephesians 2:10**

***10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.***

- The word "workmanship" in Greek is ***poiēma***—where we get the word "**poem.**" You are **God's poetry, His work of art.**

**What Is This Good Work?**

- **Salvation** - Your redemption and justification
- **Sanctification** - Your ongoing transformation into Christ's image
- **Glorification** - Your ultimate perfection in eternity

**Romans 8:29-30**

***29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.***

- God isn't just saving you from hell—**He's transforming you into the image of His Son.**

#### **The Greek Word: *Epiteleō***

- "Will complete" is the Greek word ***epiteleō***, meaning **to complete v. — to bring to a whole, with all the necessary parts or elements.**
- God **WILL** complete it. Not "might," not "hopefully," not "if you cooperate enough." **HE WILL.**

#### **The Guarantee:**

- When God starts a project, **He doesn't abandon it halfway.**
- When God makes a promise, **He doesn't change His mind.**
- When God begins a work, **He sees it through to the end.**

Numbers 23:19

***<sup>19</sup>“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”***

- Your transformation is **not dependent on your willpower—it's guaranteed by God's Word.**

#### **The Process Takes Time:**

- Some of you are frustrated because you're not where you think you should be spiritually.
- You're battling the same sins, struggling with the same weaknesses, fighting the same Doubts.
- But hear me clearly: **You are not finished yet. God is still working.**

2 Corinthians 4:16

***<sup>16</sup>For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.***

### **The Progressive Nature of Sanctification:**

- **Justification** happened in a moment—when you believed
- **Sanctification** is happening progressively—as you grow
- **Glorification** will happen instantly—when Christ returns

## **VII. The Encouragement for Struggling Believers**

- Maybe you've fallen again into that sin.
- Maybe you've doubted God after promising you'd never doubt again.
- Maybe you feel like you're taking two steps forward and three steps back.

**Know this: God hasn't given up on you.**

**Psalm 138:8**

***<sup>8</sup>The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.***

- Maybe you feel like you're not growing fast enough.
- Maybe you look at others and wonder why they seem more mature.
- Maybe you're tired of the process and want instant transformation.

**Know this: God's timeline is perfect.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:11**

***<sup>11</sup>He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.***

- Maybe you've been praying and feel like God isn't answering.
- Maybe you're in a season of silence and wonder if God still cares.
- Maybe you feel like God started something in you and then walked away.

**Know this: God never abandons His work.**

Hebrews 13:5

***<sup>5</sup> Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."***

● There's a story about Michelangelo working on one of his sculptures. Someone asked him why he was spending so much time on a statue that would be placed high on a building where no one would see the detail.

● Michelangelo replied, **"God will see it."**

● Saints, **you are God's masterpiece, and He sees every detail.**

● He's not rushing the process. He's not cutting corners. **He's perfecting you for His glory.**

**The Promise Still Stands:**

● **He who began** a good work in you ● **Will complete it** ● **Until the day of Jesus Christ**

● This is not a maybe. This is not a hope-so. **This is a guarantee from the faithful God who cannot lie.**

**Final Declaration:**

● Today, I want you to declare this truth over your life:

○ **"God has not given up on me."**

○ **"I am a work in progress, not a finished failure."**

○ **"God's faithfulness is greater than my weakness."**

○ **"What God started in me, He will complete."**

○ **"I will trust the process, even when I don't see the progress."**

○ **"I am confident—not in myself, but in the One who began the good work."**

● Let us commit to trusting God's faithfulness as He completes the good work He started in each of us. **"NOT ABANDONED, BUT IN PROGRESS"**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

