

God Will Finish What He Started

Philippians 1:1–7, HCSB	
1. Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus: To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons. 2. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3. I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, 4. always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6. <i>I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.</i> 7. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and establishment of the gospel.	

1. Opening Icebreaker

Question: What's one thing in your life you started but never finished?

2. Scripture Reading

Read Philippians 1:3–7 aloud. Highlight verse 6.

3. Background Context

Paul writes from prison in Rome yet speaks with joy. The Philippian church supported Paul faithfully. He reminds them: God won't quit on you.

4. Key Word

"Perform/Complete" (Greek: epitelesei) = *to bring to maturity, finish without leaving undone.*

5. Theological Insight

Charles Spurgeon: "The work of grace has its root in the divine purpose, its nurture in the divine calling,

and its perfection in the divine faithfulness. What God begins, He will complete."

6. Three Powerful Points

- *The Confidence of God's Work*

Philippians 1:6a - Paul's assurance rests in God's faithfulness, not his own ability. Cross-Reference: 1 Thessalonians 5:24. Discussion Question: What does it look like in daily life to be confident in God's work?

- *The Continuation of God's Work*

Philippians 1:6b - Salvation starts at the cross, but sanctification is a lifelong process. Cross-Reference:

Hebrews 12:2. Discussion Question: How have you seen God continue His work in your life?

- *The Completion of God's Work*

Philippians 1:6c - The finish line is Christ's return and our glorification. Cross-Reference: Romans 8:30.

Discussion Question: How does knowing the end of the story give us hope today?

7. Conclusion (Leading to the Cross)

The greatest evidence that God finishes what He starts is the Cross. Jesus cried, 'It is finished!' On the third day, God completed the work of redemption. If He finished salvation through the Cross and Resurrection, He will finish His work in you.

8. Application Challenge

This week, write down one area where you feel unfinished. Pray daily: 'Lord, You started this work in me—help me trust You to finish it.'

9. Closing Prayer

Pray for faith to trust God's process. Invite anyone who needs salvation to step into the good work God begins at the Cross.