

## JCI #149    Finish Work    June 2014

### Finish Work

I've been thinking lately about starting and finishing.

While a student working my way through college, I got a job working for a construction company. The job foreman was a rough character who was very good at his trade and really enjoyed helping guys learn. He started me off digging holes to set posts for pole buildings, then we moved to barn roofing for two weeks, then to laying block and setting forms and pouring cement slabs. He moved me from job to job, teaching me the basics of framing, subflooring, drilling studs and pulling wire, roofing shingles and ridge caps, installing windows and doors, siding, and gutters. Then the day came when he said..."OK Berrus, it's time to get you into some finish work." I knew he meant installing cabinets, counter tops, door trim, sheet rock taping and spackling, installing paneling and trim, and hanging drop ceilings. I learned that the starting work moved much faster than the finishing work. And the finish work demanded much more precision. I can still hear him say... "Measure twice, cut once." He was a man that took the job from start to finish. He could do it all.

The scriptures are abundantly clear that our God always patiently finishes what He starts. And He finishes what He starts perfectly! Having just completed memorizing 1 Thessalonians, I was struck again by Paul's wonderful concluding benediction in 5:23-24 "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

God is the one who sanctifies the believer. Sanctification includes the concepts of cleansing, purification, making acceptable, and setting apart for God's exclusive use. Paul's prayer is that the believers would experience God's sanctifying work until the hour of Christ's coming when it would be brought to its full completion... God's ultimate finishing of the work of redemption in final sanctification/glorification.

Having expressed this glorious anticipation of God's sanctifying steadfastness, Paul places the stamp of assurance that it will be accomplished with this glorious reminder/promise...

"He who calls you is faithful, and He will surely do it!" (ESV)

"He who calls you..."

The Initiator of the work - "He", Christ.

The Initiation of the work - "calls", salvation by the effectual calling of the Father by the Spirit through the gospel resulting in regeneration and the response of faith in the heart.

The Subject of the work - "you." This is the personal experience of the individual so called by Christ into eternal life.

We might call all these the starting of the work of God in the soul.

Election, redemption, calling, regeneration, impartation of faith, salvation.

He who calls you and starts the work in you by bringing you to repentance and faith and saving and justifying you, is the same one who will surely be faithful to finish the work by cleansing, purifying, possessing and setting you apart as His own completely in spirit and soul and body so that upon seeing Christ we are ultimately and completely conformed into His image in every aspect of our being. This glorious "finish work" is guaranteed based upon the character of the One who started it by calling us. "He who calls you is faithful, and He will surely do it!" (ESV)

Are we not blessed to know that our God is a finishing God?!

Many are they that start projects and never finish them. Our God always finishes what He starts. Without exception, God always finishes what He starts. The scriptures everywhere affirm this truth.

### **Creation**

Genesis 2:2 ...the seventh day **God finished the work** he had been doing...

### **Instruction**

John 13:12 When he had **finished washing their feet**...

### **Intercession**

John 18:1 When he had **finished praying**, Jesus left...

### **Redemption**

John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### **Salvation**

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that **he who began** a good work in you **will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 ... looking unto Jesus, **the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **God the Starter is God the Finisher**

Rev 21:6 He said to me: "**It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.** To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Rev 22:12-13 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.**

**You can be absolutely confident in your Savior and His saving and sanctifying work in you.**

**The Author is the Finisher,  
The Beginner is the Ender,  
The Caller is the Completer,  
The First is the Last,  
The Alpha is the Omega.**

Are you saved, then rejoice, you will be glorified!

***Romans 8:29-31 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?***

Has He started the work in you? Then rejoice, for He will finish it!

**You are His finish work in process today.**

**He is skilled beyond measure, faithful beyond question, persistent beyond explanation, and competent beyond argument. Christ will be formed in you in the fullness of His holy image.**

**Press on then with confidence in your finishing God and Savior.**

**He who began a good work in you by Steve Green**

listen to it on youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oGxnVvx2AQ>

He who began a good work in you  
He who began a good work in you  
Will be faithful to complete it  
He'll be faithful to complete it  
He who started the work  
Will be faithful to complete it in you

If the struggle you're facing  
Is slowly replacing  
Your hope with despair  
Or the process is long

And you're losing your song  
In the night you can be sure  
That the Lord has His hand on you  
Safe and secure  
He will never abandon you  
You are His treasure  
And He finds His pleasure in you

### **Self-Check**

- 1) Have you considered God's finish work in your life recently? What is He working on in the remodeling process in your life at this stage of your journey?
- 2) What areas of life are in need of further finishing work from your present point of view?
- 3) Are you as patient as you should be with others in whom the finish work is not yet complete?

### **For Further Study**

Read Romans 8:16-39 and list the reasons for the confidence we have that our God will finish His work in each of us.

*"Faithful God, You are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Author and the Finisher, the First and the Last. I praise You that You always finish what You start. Even when men mess it up, You restore, You rebuild, You repair, You renew, You complete. All our hopes rest in Your faithfulness, not our fickleness; Your purpose, not our power; Your promises, not our pledges. That is why we know there is coming a perfect finish to our broken and disfigured lives. You are the ultimate Finisher, so finish Your work in us. Have Your way. Do Your work. We are Yours and therefore we pray in Your name, O Finisher of our faith, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."*

**Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.**

**Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4**

**Ron & Val**

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,  
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible  
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,  
spending our time on eternity,  
owning nothing yet possessing everything  
that matters and lasts.  
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.  
Welcome to THE JOURNEY