

Philippians 1:6-11 Until the Day of Christ's Return

When we become a Christian, it is the beginning of a lifelong journey of God at work in my life

Php 1:4-6 ESV always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel **from the first day** until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work** in you **will bring it to completion** at the **day of Jesus Christ**.

- It is ongoing - there is a start the **FIRST DAY** → there is a completion at the 2nd coming of Christ
- It is the work of GOD - **He who BEGAN** a good work → **He will** bring it to **COMPLETION**
- It is a GOOD WORK - because God is the one doing it → He began a **good** work in you
- Tailored - Php 2:13 He began a good **work in you**, both **to will** and **to work** for **his good pleasure**.
- Paul confident God would do this "I am sure" (he tells us why in the next verses)

The evidence of grace [divine influence in heart reflected in the life] **indicates God is at work in them**

Phil 1:7-8 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, **for** you are all **partakers with me of grace**, both in my **imprisonment** and in the **defense and confirmation of the gospel**.
8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

- It is right to feel this way (he held them in his heart) **FOR you are partakers with me of grace**
 - **Paul had Grace to endure imprisonment** - 2Co 12:9-10 ESV But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with **weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions**, and **calamities**. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
 - **Grace in defense & confirmation of the gospel** - 1 Cor 15:10 But **by** the **grace** of God **I am what I am**, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but **the grace of God that is with me**.
 - **We are not only saved by grace, we are taught by grace** Tit 2:11-12 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

There is outward evidence when the grace of God is at work in your life - acknowledge it in others

- **IN JERUSALEM** Act 4:32-34 ESV Now the full number of those who believed were of **one heart and soul**, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had **everything in common**. 33 And with **great power** the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and **great grace was upon them all**. 34 There was **not a needy person** among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold
- **EVIDENCE IN ANTIOCH** Acts 11:23 When he came and **saw the grace of God**, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose.

One specific area of growth that has extreme impact

Phil 1:9-11 And it is my prayer that **your love may abound more and more**, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

- **Love abounding more and more**
 - (with knowledge and judgement) so you may approve what is excellent (make good choices)
 - Those good decisions help us to be pure and blameless at the 2nd Coming of Christ
 - → NLT May you always be filled with **the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.**
 - this is the end result of God's work in us -- He gets all the glory and praise

SUMMARY - God will work in you until the end - Do you see the grace of God? - Let love abound (knowledge)