



Servant's Journal

February 21, 2012

The Vision

He Started It and He'll Finish It

Philippians 1:6 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;

Ever get discouraged about your spiritual progress or lack thereof? Ever think you've failed once too often?

Sometimes we get discouraged at our spiritual progress or lack of it. Trials that test our spirituality come our way that seem as endless as the waves breaking on the coastal shore. As we struggle through them, they reveal to us what we lack in spiritual strength and character. At the same time, if we perceive them correctly and choose to trust God in them while reacting properly- they build us to be what He wants us to be. It's all a part of His good work.

I was reading through J. Oswald Sanders book, Spiritual Maturity and came across a section that blessed me and I pray it blesses you as well if you are discouraged in your walk with Christ.

"God knows no unfinished task. He completes what He begins. Though Israel (the nation) balked and thwarted Him at every turn, He persisted in His gracious disciplines until His purposes were realized, and in the Hebrew nation all the peoples of the earth were blessed. When one approach failed He adopted another."

Though we often resist and hinder His work, He does not give up on us. One of Jesus' unique character traits was that of perseverance. Isaiah prophesized this of Him:

Isaiah 42:4 He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth..."

He is not discouraged in His work with you. When Jesus chose His disciples, He was well aware of their weaknesses. They were slow in understanding. They had selfish ambitions that would override their love for Him. At the hour of His greatest need they would forsake Him and flee. Yet, it was through these very men that He achieved His purpose. We sit here today reading these words because of God's work through them.

I believe that God would have us be confident that He knew us when He chose us and that He will fulfill His good purpose through our lives.

As Oswald Sanders observed of Paul, "He cherished the unshaken confidence that His Father who had begun the good work would consummate it, no purpose of His would ever fail of fulfillment. We too can share this persuasion. We can trust our God to put the finishing touches to His own work."

Saint, you can trust God and be certain that He, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

In Him, for Him,

Pastor D

Romans 15:13

