



Paul writes to a struggling church from prison and shares this remarkably inspiring word: “I’m confident of this...that the same God who began a good work within you is going to carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” In his wonderful paraphrase called “The Message,” Eugene Peterson translates it this way: “There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.”

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

1. Nathan began by sharing the story of Olympic swimmer Kim Linehan who said the hardest part of her regimen was “*getting in the water.*” How is this analogy true in your own life? Why is getting started (or starting over) so difficult?
2. **Read Philippians 1:6.** Reflect on the idea that God...is at work...in you! Discuss how grand this concept truly is. How does it give you reassurance to know that God is at work in you?
3. **God is screaming “I’m not finished yet!” Progress takes time.** Nathan shared examples from incredible technology that didn’t seem very grand at the beginning. Sanctification (the process of being made holy) is something the Spirit does over time, throughout your life. His ultimate goal is to make you into the character of Christ. Follow up: **Read 1 John 3:2.** How does this provide hope when you consider your present failings?
4. Nathan shared three stories: one of C. S. Lewis’ house construction (that *God is making a home fit for himself*), one of the famous golf legend (that when you deal with the King *you don’t think small*), and one of Augustine’s line “yes madam, *but it is no longer me.*” Which story resonates with you the most? Share how the story helps you see God’s work in your life in a better light.
5. **The same spirit! Read Romans 8:11,** which says *the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.* How does this give you encouragement?
6. Nathan concluded by reminding us that God knows the plans he has for us and calls for us to trust the work he is doing in our lives. **Read Psalm 23.** Do you trust God’s leading in your life?