

Faith Alive! Church

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Jesus Will Finish the Work

Hebrews 12: 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish.

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;

Spiritually speaking, Jesus is both our Author and our Finisher. He started this work of faith and love within us, and He

will bring it to completion. So, the more time we spend with Him—the more He can develop in us. He can bring us to the place where we're not only like Him on the inside but we are also 'walking and talking' like Him on the outside.

We were born again in His image and as we walk with Him and let Him teach, train and help us grow up, we begin to look and act just like Him. In other words, we begin to think, live and love like Him. Jesus Himself told us in John 13:34; to love one another, just as He loves us.

If Jesus said it, that means we have the capacity to do it. We have the capacity, but we might not always look like it—especially if we're just beginning our life with Him.

Jesus is our 'Savior and Lord' – He is the 'author and finisher' of our Faith, who promises to finish and bring to completion this good work He has begun within us. With the Holy Spirit's help and our daily effort to apply God's Word to our lives; we can become 'more and more' mature in 'faith and love' just like Jesus.

But we must turn from any laziness, patiently endure and be diligent in our pursuit of Christ-likeness. We should discard any 'attitude or practice' that hinders our walk with Christ, so we can model our lives after Jesus.

- Give careful thought and study to the life of Jesus for encouragement in your struggles with sin.
- Embrace God's discipline, knowing that He is training you as His child.
- Accept God's correction as necessary for spiritual growth.
- Honor, consider, and imitate those God has put over you to lead you.

1 Corinthians 9:24 Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win.

The Christian life involves both freedom and discipline. The goals of Paul's life were to use his freedom to discipline himself in order to glorify God and bring people to Christ. So, he stayed free of anything that might sidetrack him and disciplined himself to carry out this goal.