

Surrender to God's Work

September 20, 2018

Philippians 1:6 ESV

6 And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion** (*epiteleō* - to perform, accomplish, make, do, perfect) **at the day of Jesus Christ.**

Galatians 3:3-4 ESV

3 **Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected** (*epiteleō* - to perform, accomplish, make, do, perfect) **by the flesh?**

4 **Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain?**

Romans 10:2-4 ESV

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For, **being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.**

4 For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

Galatians 5:2-6 ESV

2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that **if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.**

3 I testify again to every man **who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.**

4 **You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.**

5 For through the Spirit, by faith, **we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.**

- *For us to be free from the power of our recurring sins, there must be a transformation of heart and a molding of our character that is much deeper, requires more time and is longer-lasting, more than a modification of our behavior.*
- *We wait on God to work the change in our heart through His process of sanctification.*
- *He will do a quick work if we seek Him and surrender to Him with all of our heart.*

Galatians 5:2-6 ESV

6 For **in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.**

"Let us beware of tinkering with our inner life. God must do everything for us. Our part is to yield and trust." — A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, "Removing the Self-Life Veil"

When man has a plan, God refrains from implementing His plan, although His sovereignty rules over all (*in the end God will have his way*).

When we are busy implementing our plan, God's plan will be hindered, compromised, altered or even replaced.

Our job is to trust and obey, not to direct God's activities.

Isaiah 30:15-22 ESV

15 For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest (*Nachath - a letting down, lighting down, quietness, rest, quiet attitude*) you shall be saved; in quietness (*shaqat - undisturbed, quiet, be at peace, be inactive, idleness*) and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling,

16 and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

17 A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

18 Therefore the LORD waits (*chakah - to wait, wait for, long for, to adhere to*) to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

19 For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.

20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.

21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

22 Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

"...Another thing about the man on the cross...he has no further plans of his own...Oh, what busy-beaver Christians we are with all of our plans! It is beautiful to say, 'I am crucified with Christ,' and know that Christ is making your plans." —A.W. Tozer, "The Old Cross and the New", p.44

1 Chronicles 13:6-14 ESV

6 And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath-jearim that belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD who sits enthroned above the cherubim.

7 And they carried the ark of God on a new cart, from the house of Abinadab, and Uzzah and Ahio were driving the cart.

8 And David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets.

9 And when they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzzah put out his hand to take hold of the ark, for the oxen stumbled.

10 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark, and he died there before God.

Numbers 4:15 ESV

15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry.

1 Chronicles 13:6-14 ESV

11 And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzza to this day.

12 And David was afraid of God that day, and he said, "How can I bring the ark of God home to me?"

13 So David did not take the ark home into the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

14 And the ark of God remained with the household of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that he had.

2 Chronicles 16:1-10 ESV

1 In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

2 Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and the king's house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying,

3 "There is a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me."

4 And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.

5 And when Baasha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah and let his work cease.

6 Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building, and with them he built Geba and Mizpah.

7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you.

8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand.

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."

10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.

- *Asa's plan of delivering Judah actually prevented and stopped God's plan. (vs. 7-9)*
- *How disastrous for our souls when our plans apparently work!*

John 5:17-19 ESV

17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

John 5:19 KJV & NASB

19 "...the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing..."

John 5:19 CSB

19 "...the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing."

John 5:19 NET

19 "...the Son can do nothing on his own initiative, but only what he sees the Father doing."

Mark 6:42-46 ESV

42 And they all ate and were satisfied.

43 And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.

44 And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

45 Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

46 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

John 6:10-15 ESV

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted.

12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost."

13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

"You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there's a fire. Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it. The community will already know it." — Leonard Ravenhill

"The ugly fact is that altar fires are either out or burning very low. The prayer meeting is dead or dying. By our attitude to prayer we tell God that what was begun in the Spirit we can finish in the flesh. What church ever asks its candidating ministers what time they spend in prayer? Yet ministers who do not spend two hours a day in prayer are not worth a dime a dozen, degrees or no degrees."

— Leonard Ravenhill, Why Revival Tarries