

# **The Joyful Hope of Gospel Assurance**

## **Text: Philippians 1:6**

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*Main idea:* Christians have Assurance in their salvation because God always finishes the good work that he begins.

### I. The Devil's Two-Fold Attack

A. He wants to convince you that you are a Christian

B. He wants to convince you that you are not a Christian

### II. The Foundation of Christian Assurance (Phil 1:6)

A. The "good work" of your salvation begins with God

B. God never abandons you to your own abilities  
(See page 2 for clarification of the following terms.)

1. Regeneration:

2. Justification:

3. Sanctification:

4. Glorification:

C. God is committed to you until the very end

He who began a good work in you will complete it!  
Philippians 1:6

**Regeneration:** *God's work of new birth in which He frees sinful man and women from their natural bondage under sin, and by his grace alone enlightens their minds, to understand the Gospel, taking away their heart of stone and giving them a heart of flesh.*

**Justification:** *is the judicial act of God by which he declares the law to be perfectly satisfied in respect to us. This involves, (1) forgiveness; (2) deliverance from wrath; (3) and restoration to divine favor, because he has credited Christ's perfect righteousness to us on account of our faith in Jesus Christ.*

**Sanctification:** *is a progressive and cooperative work of God and man that makes us fight against sin and pursue righteousness so that we can be more-and-more like Christ in our every-day lives.*

<b>Justification</b>	<b>Sanctification</b>
Legal standing	Internal condition
Once for all-time	Continuous pursuit through life
Entirely God's work	We cooperate with God's work
Perfect in this life in regard to the requirements of the law	Not perfect in this life in the practice of every-day life
The same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others

**Glorification:** *The final step in our salvation. On the last day, God will clothe resurrected and living saints in bodies fit for eternity and perfectly conform us to the image of Jesus Christ in all holiness and righteousness; so that we might proclaim the glories of his grace for all eternity.*