



SPRING-TIME DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

June 23, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

READ Philippians 1:3-6

While our family quarantined due to the global pandemic, we took on an ambitious project—an eighteen-thousand-piece puzzle! Even though we worked on it almost daily, often we felt like we weren't making much progress. Five months after we began, we finally celebrated adding the final piece to the nine-by-six-foot puzzle that covered our dining room floor.

Sometimes my life feels a bit like a giant puzzle—many pieces in place, but a whole lot more still lying in a jumble on the floor. While I know that God is at work transforming me to be more and more like Jesus, sometimes it can be hard to see much progress.

I take great comfort in Paul's encouragement in his letter to the Philippians when he said he prayed for them with joy because of the good work they were doing (1:3–4). But his confidence came not in their abilities but in God, believing that “he who began a good work . . . [would] carry it on to completion” (v. 6).

God has promised to finish His work in us. Like a puzzle, there may be sections that still need our attention, and there are times when we don't seem to make much progress. But we can have confidence that our faithful God is still putting the pieces together.

By **Lisa M. Samra**

PRAY & REFLECT

Heavenly Father, please give me eyes of faith to see how You're at work in my life. Amen

How do you believe God is currently at work? What are some of the beautiful areas of your life He's pieced together?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Paul's exuberance over the church at Philippi is made more remarkable by the fact that he wrote these words from prison (see Philippians 1:13-14). Amid confinement and, no doubt, a certain amount of mistreatment, he found joy and celebration as he considered his friends at Philippi. Why? Primarily because of their partnership with him in the work of the gospel (v. 5). The Greek word translated "partnership" is *koinōnia*—“the word normally translated “fellowship.” This is a reminder that fellowship in the body of Christ is much more than just enjoying being together or building strong friendships with other believers in Jesus. It means to share something in common. Not only do we share a family relationship with one another through being part of God's family, we also have a shared mission—to take the message of His love and forgiveness to the world (Matthew 28:18-20). – By **Bill Crowder**

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