

**February 22, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Phil. 1:6 *being confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (NIV)***

I mentioned this passage yesterday, but I would like to expand upon it today. Paul is confident of this very thing; that He Who began something would finish it. Have you ever started a project and then it never really got finished? I certainly have. I love the illustration that **Chuck Swindoll** uses in his book "*Improving Your Serve.*"

*Dieting. Oh, just the word brings up painful memories! Especially when I add exercising and jogging. Who hasn't had the experience? We finally get sick and tired of our flab. Zippers start ripping out; buttons pop off; the car leans dangerously to one side when we get in; the scales we step on punch out little cards that say, "Only one person at a time, please." Okay, so we decide to thin down. In the fresh enthusiasm of zeal, we buy \$100 sneakers, a couple \$85 jogging outfits; we join a local fitness center (another \$350); and we blow the dust off that miserable "Count Those Calories" booklet we bought years ago. We just know we're going to peel off 30 pounds! The very first day we start with a flash. We hit the road, running like we're on fire. We drop our intake to 700 calories a day. We choke down dry toast, cottage cheese, sliced tomatoes, and boiled eggs! We snack on stuff that tastes like canary mix, and we sip on bitter herb tea until we think we're going to gag. By the third day, we're so sore we can only trot a half a block . . . so we get up later. Then Thanksgiving brings too many temptations, so we fudge . . . and finally gorge. In less than a month, our blimp is back in the hangar. And when the urge to exercise comes over us, we just lie down quietly until the urge goes away. Sticking with any commitment is costly. And I can assure you, becoming a servant who gives and gives and gives to others is no exception. By comparison, it will make dieting look like a piece of cake (no pun intended). - Excerpted from *Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living*, Copyright © 1981 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.*

I'm so glad that our Father is not like this. As Paul states, when the Lord starts a work, He finishes it. He is ever working on His most precious creation; you! And He will finish what He has started. And that my brothers and sisters, should give us cause for great joy and abundant life!

**Dear LORD, thank You that You will finish what You have started. Your faithfulness endures through all generations. Help us to live in Your strength and power today. In Jesus Name, Amen**