

Day 10: July 14th Tuesday

Bible Text: Philippians 1:3-6

By Faith Walter

Reflection:

Isn't it reassuring that **God Himself** takes on the responsibility for making us more like Christ? It's not up to us. (For that matter, it's not up to us to make *other* people more like Christ, either!). Paul describes this good work as God's burden and responsibility, not ours.

In Galatians 4:19 Paul also says, "My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!" Paul here uses the passive voice ("Christ **is formed** in you") as something that is done *to* us, not something that *we* do. He moreover uses the passive voice in 2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Many of us feel the pressure to be like Jesus through our own effort - but His invitation is for us to yield to Him (to die to self) and obey His leading. And the Lord will complete the good work of forming Christ in us. This is great news!

1. In thinking about the "good work in you," what is your responsibility and what is God's responsibility? How does that resonate with you?
2. In what areas of life might the Lord be inviting you to yield more fully to His leading?

Closing Prayer:

Our Good Father, thank you for beginning Your good work in us, and for Your promise to bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Thank You for transforming us into the likeness of Christ - that we don't have to do that by our own efforts, but we can trust You to do it. Reveal to us areas in our lives that You are inviting us to give more fully to You, because You love us deeply. Amen.

Recommended Song of Reflection: Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg?si=VDLcWm8V2_QRtrBR