

## Hope in Uncertain Times by Nigel Coles

### Part 12: Hope is found, trusting in the God, who completes everything he begins: Pursue!

I'm looking for Hope, like everybody else and when I look at myself, I want to believe God's not finished with me yet. I believe:

Hope is found, trusting in the God who completes everything he begins:

The Apostle Paul writes these words: <sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> 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. Philippians 1:3-6.

Pursue hope today because God is pursuing his purposes in you.

I don't know what those words say to you, but to me ... I'm just glad the Lord's approach is more like my wife Maggie's, than my own. I love starting new things, I enjoy visualising the big picture, but I'm not so good at finishing, completing the job, following through to completion.

Just the week before last, my wife said to me something along these lines:

Darling, it's been four years now since we moved into this house, it's been four years since we agreed you could have this room as your study, with the lovely view out of the window ... and it's been four years you've been telling me you'd tidy your study. How about I help you sort it out?

The fact you're listening to this tells me you've taken a step at least in God's direction. That's all he needs to work with.

And if you've given him that open invitation, irrespective of the mess you think your life is in, he's committed to helping you sort it out. And he will – right through to its completion.

Because ***I'm better*** at starting things than completing them, whether that be DIY or writing projects or even sorting out my photos, as well as the big stuff ... whole-life projects like developing a character which is Christ-like, I find that difficult to believe, do you?

God in Jesus Christ comes to where we are to lead us on beyond.

Another reason I can put off taking the next step is by dwelling too much on the raw materials.

If on the very rare occasion I decide to cook something, I have to get all the right ingredients ready, know exactly as the recipe says, before I can possibly start.

On the other hand, I frequently say to Maggie, 'what's for tea'? ... not unusually she'll say, 'I'm not sure yet' – I'll have a look in the fridge and see what we've got'.

I'll come home and eat the most wonderful meals – 'I thought you didn't know what we were having?' 'Oh I found an aubergine, so I thought we'd have moussaka, or whatever.'

Day one Christian? – Jesus didn't take a look at me and say to his father, sorry until you provide all the ingredients, there's no point starting with this one! And he won't for you either.

Ingrained patterns of behaviour, which were anything but godly;  
speech, which reflected a selfishness of heart and disregard of other people; attitudes of heart, which frequently only considered other situations and people, from my perspective, and to my advantage;  
ambition and focus, which was very self-centred  
... thankfully for me I need to keep these clips short, so there's no time to go on, but I could. I guess, in your moments of honesty, you're pretty much the same.

Jesus starts where we are – where we really are ...

Whilst that first step, our first 'yes' to Jesus, which prises open our heart to his Holy Spirit, is the biggest ever step any of us can possibly take, it is the first step.

Another step, tomorrow's step, needs to follow and every day thereafter.

Following Jesus with all I am and all I have, is a step at a time, life into the fulness God intends is only ever a day at a time.

But this is the fantastic thing: he who began a good work in me will carry it on to completion. And it gets better: he who began a good work **in you** will carry it on to completion.

Paul says, a little later 'I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me' (Phil 3:12)

Trusting God to do that looks like pursuing today, rooting hope in your life, taking your next step, in his direction for your life.

To watch the video, go to: <https://www.thefuelcast.com/>

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