

# AN UNFINISHED PROJECT

## SCRIPTURE:

*“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14).*

## MATERIALS LIST:

(1) unfinished project

**SONG:** “Live for Jesus”

## LESSON:

Every time I walk into my garage, I am reminded of all the projects that I have started that are still waiting for me to finish them. There sits the lawn mower that hasn't run in two years. In the corner is a screen for a window that has a hole in it. Hanging on the wall is a bicycle with two flat tires, and on and on the list seems to go.

When my wife and I bought our first house, we decided that we should tile the kitchen floor, even though neither one of us had ever tiled anything before. We made all of the preparations that we thought were necessary and dug in to get the job done. As anyone who had tackled a home-repair project, we learned that you are never completely prepared for various problems that will always arise. First, we learned that we couldn't put the tile directly onto the wood floor, then the floor wasn't level, then we got the wrong mortar, then we got the mortar too thin, etc. After about five days of problem after problem, I was ready to give up. I didn't care what it looked like, I'd had enough. That is when my wife reminded me that we could have asked her father for help, because he had done this before. So, I swallowed my pride and asked for the help I desperately needed.

As Christians, I think we do the same thing sometimes. We find ourselves struggling with a temptation or a sin, and we think that we have what it takes to overcome it by ourselves. We begin to feel like we are not good enough and wonder what God would want with someone like us. But this is when we have to remember that this is the very reason God is there for us, because we will never be good enough on our own without Him. We have to be reminded that God's “power is perfected in our weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9). This is why Paul declares, “Therefore I am well content with weaknesses...for when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:10). Paul finally realized that the power of God is even more impressive when it is worked through the lives of weak, imperfect people like you and me.

This doesn't mean that we give up on strengthening our weaknesses. That is why Paul says, “Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12). We will always be an unfinished project that God is working on every day. So we will never give up, and we will continue to “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

**PRAYER:** We know we are weak, but we pray that You will use us in amazing ways to serve You.

## MAIN MESSAGE:

The Bible describes that kind of person God wants us to be. We want to please God in every way possible, but sometimes it gets discouraging because it seems like we will never be good enough.