

# Author and Finisher

*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. - Hebrews 12:2*

An author has perfect control of the characters and the storyline of each of them. Nothing is out of his control. He begins the book and he ends the book the way he wants. No character can jump off the page and do his own will. No character in the book can ruin the book by his stubbornness. The author has full control.

We can hardly address this issue of Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith without addressing the doctrine of the sovereignty of God.

## Author

**He is the author of our salvation. He begins it. How does he begin it? It is a relationship. He that has the Son has life. He that has not the Son of God has not life. God calls you into being by His Son, the Lord Jesus. He initiates the relationship. He creates you as a new creature. He calls your name. He invites you to come. He gives you faith. He transforms your life.**

**“Accepting” Jesus is not a biblical term.** You don’t start your Christian walk by accepting Jesus. Accepting Jesus is a mental thing. It is passive, not active. I can accept the existence of evil in the world but that is a mere acknowledgement of reality, not a life-changing experience.

John 6:44  
1 John 5:12  
Eph 2:8-9  
Rev 3:20  
John 1:12  
Rev 4:9  
Rev 5:9  
Rev 7:9

**To “Receive” Jesus Christ by personal invitation and faith is the process by which God authors salvation in us.** The author takes up residence in us. We become his dwelling place. It is a real beginning of something tangible.

Easy-believism is an Americanism phenomenon and not a Christian teaching. Easy-believism teaches that anyone who “accepts” Jesus as Savior is saved. Anyone who says the sinner’s prayer is saved. Anyone who goes to an altar at a Billy Graham crusade is saved. Anyone who confesses to know Jesus Christ knows him indeed.

“Pastor! You mean you don’t believe that everyone who raises their hand in church to receive Christ is really saved? No, I don’t. Salvation in Christ has a beginning. It has a starting place. The beginning is a new birth, a new life, a new heart, a **new relationship to God through his Son Jesus Christ**. “As many as RECEIVED HIM, to them he gives the right to be called the Sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE IN his name.” (John 1:12) It begins, “He came unto his own and his own RECEIVE HIM NOT...”

I believe a person is born again, is saved, is eternally safe, has his name written in the Lamb’s book of Life, and has eternal life **when he invites Jesus Christ into his life to forgive his sins and be his personal Savior**. He has the Son of God.

- 1 John 5:12

**There is a troublesome passage in the Sermon on the Mount** that clearly defines this issue of mere “allegiance to Jesus and a real “born again” experience. *“Depart from me. I never knew you.”* It is a terrible delusion that some people confess the name of Jesus, use the name of Jesus, call themselves Christians and even do wonderful things in Jesus name but they are not saved. Their names are not written in the Lamb’s book of Life. They have not been born again. They don’t have the Son of God living in them. Jesus Christ is to them a tool to get something they want but he is not their Savior. He is not their Lord. He does not own them. He does not reside in their hearts by faith. They say, “Lord, lord, but they do not the things he has commanded.”

**And the first thing he commanded is to believe to the saving of their souls, that is to RECEIVE personally, by personal invitation, that is to invite Jesus Christ to come into their hearts and lives to make them a child of God.**

**The AUTHOR must be the author of your salvation.** He writes your name in the Lamb’s book of Life when you invite him into your heart by faith to cleanse your sin and make you an new person. That is what being born again means. It is not a belief system. It is a person. It is a relationship. It is a new birth. It is a new boss. It is a relationship of fellowship with Jesus Christ that begins on earth and continues in heaven.

The problem of many so-called Christians today is that they do not know the AUTHOR of eternal salvation. They know about him. They believe who he is. They like him. They sing about him. They even read his word the Bible, but they fail to have a personal relationship to him. They have never prayed to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. They never have invited Jesus Christ to take up residence in their hearts and lives.

There is no AUTHORSHIP written on their hearts. Jesus blood needs to be tattooed across our hearts when he steps in and cleans house. He will never sneak in. He will never break the door down to get into your hearts. He doesn’t evolve into your life. He doesn’t come in by association with other Christians or Christian things.

YOU MUST INVITE THE AUTHOR INTO YOUR LIFE TO BEGIN THIS STORY.

**YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN !!!**

(ie) Story of Alair da Cunha, a spiritist warlock. How he got saved.

(ie) Sarah Palin is on a book tour. She signs your book. But do you know Sarah Palin when she signs your book and says hello? No, you know about her. But when you invite her into your home and you spend time together and she often comes to your house for dinner and you laugh and talk and share time together then you REALLY KNOW HER.

# Finisher

He is the author of our salvation and he is the finisher of our faith. He begins it, and he completes it. He finishes what he began to do. There is a wonderful word picture of this "AUTHOR AND FINISHER" relationship in Jeremiah 18. Turn with me to that passage for a moment.

## The Potter's Hands – Jeremiah 18

1. This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2. "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." 3. So I went down to the potter's house, **and I saw him working at the wheel.** 4. **But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.** 5. Then the word of the LORD came to me: 6. "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

*"So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him."*

It's a dirty business this potter's wheel. He hasn't got much to work with. It's mud. It's messy. It's gooey. It sometimes hurts and spins, and reshaped differently than we expected. The Potter isn't making all the pots alike, but as He determines, so He molds them. He is the creator and the finisher of the pot.

**2 Timothy 1:12** For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against [that day](#).

**Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a [good work in](#) you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

**Hebrews 13:21** Make you [perfect](#) in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are his [workmanship](#), created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**Psalms 138:8** The LORD will [perfect that](#) which concerns me:

**Jude 1:24** Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* [faultless](#) before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

## Song: He's Still Working On Me.

He's still working on me to make me what I ought to be.  
It took Him just a week to make the moon and stars,  
The Sun and the Earth and Jupiter and Mars.  
How loving and patient He must be, He's still working on me.

There really ought to be a sign upon the heart,  
Don't judge him/her yet, there's an unfinished part.  
But I'll be perfect just according to His plan  
Fashioned by the Master's loving hands.

In the mirror of His Word reflections that I see  
Make me wonder why He never gave up on me.  
He loves me as I am and helps me when I pray  
Remember He's the Potter, I'm the clay.

**What a joy to know that you are not the author of your own salvation, Christ is. He brought you into his story by his grace. And he is also the one who has plans for your and is writing your story of grace. He is the Finisher of the story of your life. Invite him today to do his work and finish his work in you.**

### HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE

**My father's way may twist and turn,  
My heart may throb and ache,  
But in my soul I'm glad I know,  
He maketh no mistake.**

**My cherished plans may go awry,  
My hopes may fade away.  
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead  
For He doth know the way.**

**Tho' night be dark and it may seem  
That day will never break;  
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,  
He maketh no mistake.**

**There's so much now I can not see,  
My eyesight's far too dim;  
But come what may, I'll simply trust  
And leave it all to Him.**

**For by and by the mist will lift  
And plain it all He'll make,  
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,  
He made not one mistake.**

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to  
peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things  
right if I surrender to His Will;

That I may be reasonably happy in this  
life and supremely happy with Him  
Forever in the next.  
Amen.

--Reinhold Niebuhr

Here is the solution:

**Let us FIX OUR EYES on Jesus.**

## **Potter's Hand**

**I know for sure, all of my days are held in Your hands  
Crafted into Your perfect plan**

**You gently call me, into Your presence  
Guiding me by, Your Holy Spirit  
Teach me dear Lord  
To live all of my life through Your eyes**

**I'm captured by, Your Holy calling  
Set me apart  
I know You're drawing me to Yourself  
Lead me Lord I pray**

**Take me, Mold me  
Use me, Fill me  
I give my life to the Potter's hands  
Hold me, Guide me  
Lead me, Walk beside me  
I give my life to the Potter's hand**