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INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST

30 Day Devotional

Nate Stevens

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First Edition, 2021 ISBN 10: ISBN 13:

Published by Kingdom Winds Publishing. 6 Charleston Oak Lane, Greenville, SC 29615 www.kingdomwinds.com publishing@kingdomwinds.com Printed in the United States of America.

Cover Design by Christine Dupre

The views expressed in this book are not necessarily those of the publisher.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, thank you, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, for graciously conforming me from what I was and gradually into what You envision me becoming. Not only do You love me as You found me, You also love me enough to shape, mold, and conform me into Your likeness! What an amazing work of grace!

Additionally, thank you, Karen Stevens, for seemingly endless hours watching me study, research, and write, then helping choose which devotions to include as well as develop the cover concept. Along with my heart, you have my thanks and appreciation. I love you!

Finally, thank you, Gary and Elizabeth Suess and the Kingdom Winds family for your partnership in this endeavor. I am grateful for your vision and ministry to support authors, songwriters, artists, and others as they fulfill their roles in building and equipping the eternal Kingdom of God. Bless you!

ENDORSEMENTS

I love Conformed: Into the Likeness of Christ, especially the space for daily notes and journaling. Beautifully thought out and amazing to read, every day is uplifting and leads us to pursue the likeness of Christ. Everyday examples with direct support from Scripture encourage a closer walk with God.

Phyllis Runyon, Singles Coordinator Celebration Church—Blountville, TN

Every true believer desires to think, talk, act, and be more like our Savior Jesus Christ. In his devotional, Conformed: Into the Likeness of Christ, Nate Stevens leads the reader on a 30-day path to achieve that goal in our ultimate pursuit of being more like Jesus.

Wendy Griffith, 700 Club Co-host Author of "You Are a Prize to be Won, Don't Settle for Less than God's Best"

INTRODUCTION

Conforming is a battle! My will, unless crucified, is in constant conflict with God's will.

God created, called, and purposes us to be conformed into His likeness. "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Ephesians 1:4). "Whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29).

The word "transformed" in the Bible is a Greek word (metamorphoo) that implies a divine, supernatural metamorphosis. It generally refers to the spiritual regeneration, transfiguring, or transformation the Holy Spirit undertakes internally in the lives of believers. However, "conformed" is a different Greek word (summorphoo). It means being conformable, assimilated, fashioned, or molded to a desired shape or likeness. Both terms describe spiritual processes; however, conformity quite often involves the personal choice of external change.

Coupled with the Holy Spirit's inner transformation, every believer holds the responsibility to conform to Christlikeness. This involves daily taking up the cross, "putting off" anything not Christlike, and "putting on" of Christlike characteristics and behaviors (Ephesians 4:17-32). It is the daily dying to self and submitting, or conforming, to the new life in Christ and walking in alignment with God's Word.

Conforming to His likeness is more than an emotional experience or even an intellectual encounter with God. It is a growing, intense desire to be like Christ—His likeness, His thoughts, His Spirit, His presence permeating every area, aspect, and decision of life. Only in this way do I increasingly resemble Him, am conformed into His image, and am positioned for eternity with Him. "We also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body" (Philippians 3:20-21).

These concise daily devotions encourage such a conforming encounter. May they be daily echoes of Jesus' call to follow and imitate Him. More than just reading them daily, I encourage you to meditate on them—applying them to life and allowing them to ignite a deeper, more intimate walk with God.

Above all else, may this 30-day journey encourage you to embrace God's ongoing work of conforming you "to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29).

Nate Stevens

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CONFORMED TO CHRIST – DAY 1

Who Am I Following? (Isaiah 45:2)

God says, "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight." His promise is twofold: to lead me and to straighten my journey. Though sometimes confusing to human hearts and minds, His ways are never crooked, impassible, or suspect. His ways are perfect and straight, even when they seem perplexing or not readily visible. My challenge is to follow where He leads—embracing His transforming, conforming work in my life. If He is not leading, who am I following? If my journey seems twisted, dangerous, or dark, am I on His pathway or trails of my own choosing? Yes, His way often involves risk, adversity, surrender, and trust. However, if He is leading, I can trust His heart and follow accordingly.

Father, along with Your call to follow You, calm my anxious heart and mind with Your "Fear not."



CONFORMED TO CHRIST JOURNAL – DAY 1

How am I living in conformity to Christ in all areas of my life? In what area is He working on me?



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CONFORMED TO CHRIST – DAY 2

Developing Christlikeness (Hebrews 11:1)

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Love is not developed by positive personalities—it grows from loving the unlovely. Joy is not developed by cheerful circumstances—it grows from inner contentment though living with unmet expectations and hardship. Peace is not developed by mystical meditations—it grows from resolute serenity in the midst of chaos. Obedience is not developed by forced submission—it grows by rejecting opportunities to disobey. Patience is not developed by structured tolerance-it grows from calm persistence during frustrating delays. Character is not developed by planned performance-it grows by consistency in increasing adversity. Faith is not developed by preconceived belief—it grows with each determined step into the invisible.

Father, please continually develop Christlike characteristics in me.



CONFORMED TO CHRIST JOURNAL – DAY 2

Which Christlike characteristic is my strongest / weakest? How am I yielding to His likeness?

4