

WEEK TWENTY-TWO: **“Created to Become Like Christ”**

DAY ONE: **“Image and Likeness of God”**

**Read:** Ephesians 4:24 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1359)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 171 to bottom of p. 173

**Reflect:** Who are you most like in your family? What physical and personality characteristics do you have that you are grateful for?

**Dig:** According to this passage, where does corruption come from?

Why are our desires called “deceitful”?

What is the content of our “new selves”?

What is the process of becoming like God?

- What are we being taught?

- What is God’s part?

- What is our part?

**Apply:** Pray this prayer back to God as you begin your day today:

“Lord, make me new in your image, in true righteousness and holiness. Let me put off  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name habits of your life that are unholy) and let me put on  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name characteristics of Christ that you need to grow in).

Thank you, God, for growing me to become more like Christ.

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DAY TWO: **“God’s Spirit Working in You”**

**Read:** Philippians 2:12-16 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, pp. 1367-1368)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 174-175

**Reflect:** How would you describe the Holy Spirit?

In your spiritual life do you treat the Holy Spirit more like a “force” or a person?

**Dig:** What are we supposed to “work out”?

How is this different than *working for* your salvation?

How is our progress related to God’s will and work?

What does Paul expect from the people in Philippi because they are letting God work in their life? See verse 16-17.

**Apply:** Since Christlikeness is produced more by inhabitation than imitation, ask Jesus to inhabit your day through the Holy Spirit. How will that make practical differences in your day today?

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DAY THREE: **“God Uses his Word, his People, and Circumstances”**

**Read:** James 5:13-16 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1447)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 176

**Reflect:** Do people help you in your spiritual growth or slow you down?

**Dig:** Make a list of the concerns that are *shared* in this text.

How is the whole community (church) called to help the sick?

What are we to confess to each other?

What will be the effect if we practice this kind of confession?

**Apply:** What weakness, illness, or sin should you share with others so that you can grow in Christlikeness? Make a plan to share that today in your interactions with other Christians.

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DAY FOUR: **“Becoming Like Christ is a Long, Slow process”**

**Read:** Ephesians 4:12-16 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1359)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 176 to end of chapter

**Reflect:** What habits of spiritual life do you practice frequently?

**Dig:** What phrases or words are used in this text that indicate that the process of growth is slow?

How are “infants” in the faith characterized?

How is maturity defined?

What phrases indicate that this growth happens together instead of individually?

**Apply:** Since “much confusion in the Christian life comes from ignoring the simple truth that God is far more interested in building your character than he is anything else,” what is it that God is most interested in as far as your character is concerned? (*PDL*, p. 177)

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DAY FIVE: **“I Was Created to Become Like Christ”**

**Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 3 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:**

**“As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.” 2 Corinthians 3:18b (NLT)**

*Lectio divina* (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.