



*Formed for the Glory of God:
Learning from the Spiritual
Practices of Jonathan Edwards*

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If we don't have the patience to wait for a latte, how will we learn to spend time with Christ?

Life and the seemingly mundane details that it holds are dripping with God's presence and saturated with divine realities. These realities, if we take the time to look for them and realize the eternal significance of our day-to-day lives, can provide a gateway into the journey of our own personal spiritual formation.

Our spiritual journey, although not always easy, can be done with greater comfort and discipline because of the great spiritual thinkers that have gone before us, like Jonathan Edwards, who is often turned to as an ideal example of the Christian life. It is not that Edwards was perfect but that he practiced what he preached.

"In Jonathan Edwards, we find a grasp of spiritual formation that tries to balance deep thought with deep passion, human action with God's action, truth with goodness and beauty, and a life of love with the contemplation of divine things," writes Strobel as he explains his reasoning for choosing Edwards.

It is through the example of Edwards, and his ability to capture both his eternal existence and his earthly existence, that we too can begin to see our every-day connection to heaven. "The Christian life is not abstracted away from heaven, but it is directly connected to it. In fact our heavenly and earthly lives are not two different journeys, but are two phases of the same pilgrimage."

Throughout the book, Strobel seeks to first define this spiritual journey and what it entails for us, as well as provide practical tools along the way. All the while, Strobel intertwines examples of Edwards's writing, lifestyle and personal spiritual disciplines, while proving that our lives are not sanctioned into separate entities and that we are in union with God while we are on earth.

"We sometimes imagine that spiritual formation—the Spirit's work of conforming us to the image of God's Son—is something accomplished on our own. But in reality, God has graciously given us the gift of teachers and the community of saints. These wise guides can lead us and help us, through their teaching and example, pointing us to Christ," said Justin Taylor, managing editor of the ESV Study Bible. "We could not ask for a more profound guide than the great theologian Jonathan Edwards. In these pages his gifted interpreter Kyle Strobel shows us a better way—a way less traveled—for how to live the Christian life bound to the Son in love. A feast awaits all those with eyes to see."

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