

CONFORMED TO CHRIST

Discoveries in the maturing Christ-centered life

Mary Sharon Moore

AWAKENING VOCATIONS

Eugene, Oregon

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None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live,
we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
(Romans 14:7-8)

He indeed died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for
themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.
(2 Corinthians 5:15)

I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live,
no longer I, but Christ lives in me.
(Galatians 2:20)

INTRODUCTION

Deep into my sixties I discover something about myself: I am on a mission. And I can describe my mission in one sentence.

My mission is to *remain* in Christ and to *reveal* him everywhere.

In fact, at this point in my life I can say that my mission is to spend my life, to throw my life away, for the sake of remaining in Christ, for the sake of revealing the reign of God.

I did not choose this mission. This mission chose me. And it continues to choose me, sending me to where I had not thought to go.

Perhaps you know this experience of “being chosen.”

My mission, I discover, is to be conformed to Christ, as Saint Paul urges at every turn. So conformed to Christ that, eventually, you will not really be sure where I leave off and Christ begins.

Ultimately, I discover, my work is to disappear in Christ. Not to become invisible or to make myself small. But to be fully present to the other while holding space for the radiant power that flows from Jesus’ resurrection for the good of this other, for the good of others, in this particular time.

I have learned that if I count the hours of sleep I sacrifice to this mission, or the comforts of home I forego in its cause, I am not fit for the mission entrusted to me.

If I consider the uncertainties in my assignments, or look back longingly

at the financial security I have declined, I am not fit for the mission entrusted to me.

I am discovering what every baptized man and woman must discover at some point, and in a way that thoroughly rearranges all logical sense of purpose: I live, as Saint Paul writes, no longer for myself but for him who died and was raised from the dead.

And I discover, to my astonishment, that I cannot walk away from this mission.

Down to the marrow of my bones I now understand that whether I live or die, whether I am known or obscure, successful or a perpetual B+ student, *I am the Lord's*.

I cannot really express the joy I feel each time I touch the truth of this discovery.

Nor can I adequately describe this necessary work of the maturing Christian, to live "hidden with Christ in God." I experience not a withdrawal but a deep engagement, an urgency of presence to the other, so that the Lord Jesus may be free to encounter each one, as he desires, through me.

I pray that I will always remain true to this missional joy. And I pray that this missional joy may be yours, also.

Our common mission, in the end, is to be so conformed to Christ that there will be only one heartbeat, the heartbeat of the Father; only one longing, the longing of the Son; and only one breath, who is the Holy Spirit.

Mary Sharon Moore
Eugene, Oregon
November 18, 2015

PART 1
INVITATIONS

I have come to believe that God is All Invitation.

God is on a magnificent mission to clothe and cover and thoroughly saturate every dimension of all that *is* with unimaginable love and dignity and wholeness and joy.

And no matter what I have done, or what I have failed to do, I am a recipient of God's lavish generosity, and a messenger of the same.

I am invited, afresh each day, into this life which I have been given, invited into a new share in God's mission. Daily I am invited into the very holiness of God.

How do I best receive these divine invitations? Not through a constant scanning for opportunity, but through a receptive heart.

The invitations are everywhere. And they are always, directly or in service to another, invitations to become my authentic self-in-God.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Sharon Moore is a Catholic writer, speaker, teacher, and spiritual director whose work is dedicated to awakening men and women of Christian faith to the power of their sacramental anointing. Her evangelizing ministry spans the United States.

Mary Sharon believes that every baptized person has been anointed to stand in the place of the risen Lord in the world they touch.

She also believes that the world itself is waiting for men and women of Christian faith to wake up to the power of their anointing, and to reveal in fresh and powerful ways the reign of God in this time.

Other books by Mary Sharon Moore include:

- *Anointed for a Purpose: Confirmed for Life in the 21st Century* (2012)
- *Living in God's Economy: A "domestic church" resource for Gospel living* (2009, 2016)
- *Moving in God's Direction: Essentials of Christ-centered Spiritual and Vocational Direction* (2012)
- *Seven Last Words and Eight Words of Easter: Meditations for Your Journey to Pentecost* (2013)
- *Touching the Reign of God: Bringing Theological Reflection to Daily Life* (2009)

A catalog of Mary Sharon's parish missions, retreats, and workshops can be found at marysharonmoore.com.

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Honest talk on the nature of God's calling
