
DIAMOND



> *Romans 12:2* <

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

If you're reading this devotional, please know that I have prayed for you. I probably don't know you personally but I understand some of what you're going through. I know that it's tough. I know that everyday is like a pressure cooker, and that you're constantly pulled in a million different directions. I know that you're trying to do what is right but oftentimes find yourself doing the opposite of what you believe. I know that you feel loads of pressure to do what everyone else is doing, and that you feel it every day.

Hold on. While the pressure is strong and the choices are difficult I want to encourage you to hold steady. It will turn you into something beautiful. The process of how a piece of coal becomes a diamond is very similar. Thousands of years of pressure and heat take a piece of coal and turn it into a beautiful diamond. When you find yourself receiving pressure from all angles, do not crack and do not falter. Hold strong and true to what you know is good and acceptable. Just as Paul tells us, "do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed."

A diamond becomes a diamond, not by conforming to the pressure, but by being transformed through it. Be patient, beautiful things are happening through the pressure and difficulty.

Go and Do

A prayer for times of pressure:

God of goodness and light, I know that you are not the author of confusion and anxiety. I also know that you calmed the storm and the raging sea. When my life is chaotic, and full of pressure help me trust in you. Help me remember that you are the one who creates beauty and peace in the middle of pain and pressure. God, give me patience and strength, as you take the pain and pressure in my life and transform it into goodness and hope in you. Amen.
