

Rhema Bible Study
Ephesians 4:22 thru 24

Verse 22

That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.

Paul taught that one went through a complete change when converted to the Lord. This requires that one “put off...the old man.” Consequently, “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (II Corinthians 5:17). We should notice that the old man is corrupted by *deceitful lusts*. In other words, the things lusted for in this world promise thrills and satisfaction. Instead, they bring disappointment, shame, disgrace, and contention. Our old man—our former life before we obeyed the gospel—was becoming more and more corrupt. Age and experience usually do not improve sinners. In fact, their consciences become duller, and habits of evil become even more rigidly fixed.

We were released... from the bondage to sin and death, which was fed by gross deceitfulness and lustful living, and changed into a new life of true righteousness and godly holiness. When you were saved you received a new wardrobe that, but you had to take off the old clothes to put on the new. God wants us clean on the inside and the outside.

To become a Christian means that we take off our former way of life and by the power of the Holy Spirit are severed from our old, original, self-centered, Adamic-life, which corrupts, by deceitful desires of the flesh - into precious union with our Savior into and sweet communion with our God.

When we became a Christian, it means that our minds are no longer darkened by sin, our lives are no longer alienated from God, our hearts are no longer hardened and polluted, for we took off our former way of life, which was corrupted by deceitful desires... and put on Christ. Let us therefore live our lives unto Him, permitting the Holy Spirit of God renew the spirit of our minds - day by day.

Question...what is the main part of your physical body that needs to effect the change at salvation?

Question...how does the church respond to a new Christian who does not seem to be growing spiritually?

Verse 23

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind. It is not enough to put off the old man, the old man must be replaced with something new. The only way one's life will change is to have a new mind: "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Elsewhere Paul teaches that this transformation comes about by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). *Be renewed* is in the present imperative and is, therefore, a continuous duty and process. *The spirit of your mind* is the spirit that directs your mind. Before conversion it was disobedient. Now, it is a spirit of meekness, humility, and obedience.

It is the Word of God that renews our minds. It is the holy Bible that washes our minds clean. It is the God-breathed Scriptures that renew our minds day by day and enables our new life in Christ to grow and mature. Jesus prayed to the Father, just before His crucifixion, sanctify them through Thy truth - they Word is truth.

It is being immersed in the Word of truth that causes our lives to be gradually transformed, by the Spirit of truth - as our minds are being renewed in HIM.

Question...should we expect the Holy Spirit to automatically renew our minds, or do we bear a responsibility?

Verse 24

And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.

The new man, or new nature, is a creation of God (II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10). With God's help we can improve ourselves. We can "put on" the new man like one puts on a garment. We do not have to be the same old detestable person we once were. We can put on the "new man," who will live "soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:12). In other words, those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (Galatians 5:24).

The new sinless self is not a patching up of the old corrupt self. The new nature is not an improving of the old sin nature. The OLD was imputed to us through Adam and inherited from our earthly parents. Though Adam was created in the image and likeness of God, all his progeny is begotten in the image and likeness of fallen Adam.

Because we have put on the new self, we have a brand-new position in a brand-new creation with a brand-new life and a brand-new nature. That brand new life was given to us directly from God's Holy Spirit when we were born-again, and that brand new self, which is in the image and likeness of God has been created in the righteousness and holiness - of God Himself.

Let us make the right choices in our lives and seek to live a righteous and holy life, as unto the Lord - for we have been commanded to be holy, because our Father in heaven is holy.

Question...how do we deal with the fact that we sometimes like the “old man?”