

Introduction

In our series on Ephesians, we turned the corner in the book when we got to chapter four. Paul entreats us to walk in a worthy manner of the calling. Chapters 4-6 are about walking out that calling.

(Ephesians 4:1) "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,"

Three weeks ago we looked at the first three steps of walking in a worthy manner. First, we are to walk humbly and with gentleness. Second, we are to walk patiently, with forbearance. Third, we are to walk in unity, preserving the unity that God has provided.

Last week we looked at Three Steps Towards Maturity. We saw that God wants to bring the church to a place of maturity and unity. Even though He has established unity, there are some things that we have to do. First, we must be equipped for the work of service. God has given gift ministries to equip the church, but we must be equipped. Second, we must speak the truth in love to one another. Third, everyone of us must be in the game. All of us must supply. All of us must be working properly. When these three things happen, the body will be built up and will grow to maturity.

In our text today, Paul shares with us how we need to lay aside the old self and put on the new self. When we come into a relationship with Christ, when we receive Christ into our lives, when we confess Jesus as Lord, we are to lay aside the old way of life and put on the new self.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul tells us that if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things passed away; behold new things have come. This is God's plan for all of us.

(2 Corinthians 5:17) "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Paul goes on to tell us in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that "He made Him who knew no sin was made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." When we come to Christ, our sins are forgiven. God no longer looks at us as sinners, but as holy ones. This is called positional sanctification by theologians.

(2 Corinthians 5:21) "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

There is a second type of sanctification called progressive sanctification. Progressive sanctification is the process where we lay aside the old self and put on the new self. It is the process where the old things pass away and the new things have come. This is what our message is about today. I have entitled it, "Living A Renewed Life."

Let's read our text for today.

Our Text

(Ephesians 4:17-32) "This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, {18} being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; {19} and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. {20} But you did not learn Christ in this way, {21} if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, {22} that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, {23} and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, {24} and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. {25} Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH, EACH ONE of you, WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. {26} BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, {27} and do not give the devil an opportunity. {28} Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need. {29} Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. {30} And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. {31} Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. {32} And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

Subject: How are saints suppose to walk?

Complements:

1. They should put aside the old self.
 - a. They are not to walk in the futility of their mind.
 - b. They are not to walk with darkened understanding.
 - c. They are not to walk in ignorance.
 - d. They are not to walk with a hardened heart.
 - e. They are not to give themselves to sensuality.
 - f. They are not to practice impurity and greediness,.
 - g. They are not to walk in falsehood.
 - h. They are not to steal.
 - i. They are not to speak unwhole words.
 - j. They are not to grieve the Holy Spirit.
 - k. They are not to hold on to bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice.
2. They should put on the new self.
 - a. We are to walk in righteousness.
 - b. We are to walk in holiness.
 - c. We are to walk in and speak truth.
 - d. We are to labor so that we can give to others.
 - e. We are to speak words that edify and give grace to others.
 - f. We are to put away all anger, bitterness, and wrath.
 - g. We are to be kind, tenderhearted and to forgive one another.

Ephesians 4:17-32 Living A Renewed Life

A few weeks ago, we had testimony Sunday. Most of you shared your testimony that day. We were in Ephesians two, where Paul talks about the testimony of every believer. There is the life prior to knowing Christ, how you came to know Christ, and your life since then. Today, I am going to share some things about my life, because it relates to our message today.

I grew up in Iran. My father worked for the Iranian Oil Exploration and Producing Company or IOEPC. We were there for fifteen years. In Iran, we usually had one Protestant service and one Catholic service. There were not pastors in every town. There were probably just a few pastors in the whole country. The pastors were circuit riders. They would preach in Agha Jari on Monday, Masjed-I-Sulaiman on Tuesday, Abadon on Wednesday, and Ahwaz on Thursday. We had a number of different Protestant pastors over the years.

In 1966, our family moved to Masjed-I-Sulaiman, or MIS. It means mosque of Solomon. It was a nice town in Baktiari country. The Baktiari people were very friendly and we enjoyed our time there. One of the things that I did not enjoy was church. The Church of England had a pastor living there that I was not too excited about. This particular pastor was very intellectual. However, I did not care about his intellect. I cared about his lifestyle.

Donald smoked, drank, and cussed with the best of them. He reminded me of the old saying in the South, "We don't drink, smoke or chew; and we don't go with girls that do."

I was not a Christian at the time. My parents were Methodists and they had sprinkled me as a baby, but I was not a believer. Even as an unbeliever, I knew that this man's lifestyle was not right. I had different expectations of someone who called himself a Christian.

One day in Sunday School, I was being a foolish young boy and cutting up with my friends. Donald yelled at me and called me a stupid ass in front of everyone. To an Englishman, the word ass is a common day word that refers to a donkey. To an American, the word ass has a very different meaning. On that particular day, I made a decision to become an atheist.

I saw the hypocrisy in the church. I lived in a Moslem country and I knew that Islam was a very dark and evil religion. I saw the lifestyles of the Moslems. I saw the way they treated women. I saw the way they lied, cheated, stole and lived. They had no scruples about being deceitful or dishonest. Therefore, on that day, I became an atheist. I told my parents that they could make me go to church but they could not make me a Christian.

I was not exposed to much Christianity in high school. My parents sent me to a Methodist boarding school in New Jersey. I saw more religion. I saw mandatory vesper services. I saw religious rules and classes, but no genuine Christianity.

When I went to college, I chose Texas Christian University, not because of the name, but because of the location and my desire to play golf. I played number one on the team all four years and am grateful that my golf scholarship afforded me an excellent education. During my freshman year at TCU, I would see groups of Christians praying before their meals. I was hardened and would write letters to the Skiff, the daily campus newspaper, putting down the Christians.

Towards the end of my first year, a man named Don, began coming by Pete Wright dormitory where

I was living. Don was going to Southwestern Baptist Seminary off of Berry Street. Over a number of visits Don shared with me that God loved me and had a plan for my life. I saw something very different in Don. I saw the love of Christ in his eyes. I saw an authentic Christian. At the time, my heart was so hardened that I could not receive what he had to say. But, God was using his life message to soften my heart.

Right before the fall semester of my second year of college, I went up to Duncan, Oklahoma to play in the Elks Labor Day Tournament, sponsored by Halliburton. It was a calcutta tournament and I was pretty keyed up and could not get to sleep. There happened to be a devotional book by Kenneth Copeland in the drawer of the night stand by the bed. On the second page of this book, Kenneth shared about how people could experience the peace of God in their lives. He said that when a person receives Christ, the peace of God will come on them so that they can sleep.

Kenneth shared how to become a Christian. He said that all of us had sinned. I knew that I was a sinner. I did not need anyone to tell me that I had sinned and was a sinner. Second, Kenneth shared that the wages of sin is death. To be honest with you, I was not that concerned with death and the eternal consequences at that point in my life. I could accept what he said though. Next, he said that we must believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and that He died on the cross for our sins. Until then, I had rejected Jesus Christ and His followers because of the hypocrisy that I had seen. It wasn't until recently that I had seen the real McCoy. At this point, I could now say that I believed it was real and genuine. The final thing that Kenneth shared was that we needed to confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord.

Since I now believed the message, I made a decision right then to ask Christ into my life. I got on my knees by the bed in the Chisholm Trail Motel and asked Jesus to come into my life. And to no surprise, I was able to get right to sleep.

In my life, I needed to see examples of changed lives to verify the message of Jesus Christ. We wonder why the church is not making much headway today in America. One of the reasons is that the church lives basically as the pastor that I grew up with. There is no difference in the way that the world lives and the way that the church lives. People need the gospel. People need a relationship with our heavenly Father. He has a plan for all of us. He sent His Son to restore the relationship between people and Himself. He wants fellowship with us. He wants to pour out His blessings on our lives. But, until people begin to see genuine Christianity, our message is being cast aside.

In our text today, Ephesians 4:17-32, Paul returns to the overall thrust of the passage, that we are to walk in a manner worthy of our calling. He says that we are to walk with the mind of Christ, not in the futility of our minds, like the Gentiles. He says that we must put off our old self and walk in our new self. We are to walk with truth and integrity. Our speech and our actions need to reflect the new self. Our lives need to reflect the new self.

1. Lay Aside The Old Self

Paul's first point is to lay aside the old self. In verse 17, he tells us that we are not to walk like the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart. He goes on to say that they have become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice

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of every kind of impurity with greediness. Let's take a quick look at that.

Paul is writing to Gentile believers. The mystery of the gospel is that God intended to save both the Jews and the Gentiles. The Gentiles, prior to the revealing of this mystery, were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel. They were excluded from the life of God and the promises of God. They were without hope. The word Gentile refers to non-Jewish people who have not received Christ. When a person receives Christ, he becomes a citizen of heaven. Both Jews and Gentiles have the same citizenship in heaven; there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile. Paul is not putting down Gentiles; he is simply saying this in terms that they understood perfectly.

The Ephesians also understood walking in the futility of their mind. When a person becomes a Christian, God gives His Holy Spirit. We saw in Ephesians 1 that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and He guides us in truth. The unbeliever does not have the Holy Spirit inside him. He is led merely by the futility of his mind.

Paul talks about the sensuality and impurity with greediness. The Ephesians knew all about sensuality. They had temple prostitutes. They had all kinds of immorality in Ephesus. They also worshipped false idols, like Diana and Artemis. The worship of Artemis was actually a way for them to make money. If you recall, the city of Artemis became enraged because of the thought of people turning away from Artemis to God. They were about to lose a major source of their income. Their rejection of the gospel was partially based on greed.

These Gentile believers in Ephesus knew what their life was prior to becoming Christians. Paul is telling them to no longer live like they did in the past. Their lives were to be different now that they know Christ. They are to lay aside the old self and their former manner of life.

If Paul were here in the flesh today, he would be preaching this same message to the church. The statistics show that the church is living like the world. Our divorce rates are almost identical, right at 50%. Our pornography and sexual immorality is similar. In fact, forty percent of pastors admitted to having adulterous relationships during their ministry. The amount of charitable giving is about the same, about 2-2 ½ %. Paul would be telling the church to lay aside the old self and put on the new self.

In our text, Paul says that we did not learn Christ this way. Unfortunately, many church members and attenders have not learned Christ at all. Barna says in his article that "The consistent deterioration of the Bible as the source of moral truth has led to a nation where people have become independent judges of right and wrong, basing their choices on feelings and circumstances."

Barna is essentially quoting Ephesians 4:17-19. The church today is relying on their own minds and do not have a biblical worldview. There are two things that need to be said about this situation. First, the church has a responsibility to teach and disciple new believers. New believers must learn Christ. For them to learn, they need to be taught and disciplined.

Second, I can lead a horse to water, but I cannot make him drink. Christians have a responsibility to lay aside the old self and put on the new self. The church cannot do that for the believer. Each person is going to have to take responsibility for the renewal process of his mind.

How do we practically lay aside the old self? One of the ways that we lay aside the old self is to stop filling our minds with the old thoughts. We need to be careful about the TV that we watch, the movies we go to, the books and magazines that we read, and the music that we listen to.

In prison ministry we used to have a saying, same playground, same playmates, same results. The national rate of recidivism is 71%. That means that nearly three quarters of the people who are incarcerated end up going back to prison. Why? They have not put off the old self. They still hang out with the same crowd and do the same things they used to do.

It is not just in prison ministry. There are many people today that are imprisoned in their lifestyle. When I was a pastor at Discovery Church in Orlando, we ministered to quite a few folks that worked at Disney. The majority of workers at Walt Disney World are gay or lesbian. In order to help some of these people get free, we had to get them out of the environment they were in. Some very talented musicians became travel agents or did other types of work, just so that they were not around the same people and environment. Many of these people were able to use their music talents at our church and all of us were blessed.

Kathleen and Joanna went to Acquire the Fire a few weeks ago. Kathleen came back and told me how many sexual scenes were in every TV show. Your minds are being bombarded with sex, drugs, violence, and other things by the media. We must be careful about how much of this we allow into our minds. Part of laying aside the old self must include putting a stop to many things that we are feeding our hearts and minds.

A number of years ago I had a gifted and anointed evangelist in our church. He moved prophetically very powerfully. I really liked this brother and I benefitted from his ministry. He shared with me one day how he was struggling with his thought life. He was struggling with sexual imagery and violence. I asked him about what TV shows and movies he was watching. He was watching lots of R and X rated movies. I told him to cut out these movies. Unfortunately, he thought I was being legalistic. It was not legalism. I was trying to help him get free. These movies he was watching were full of sex and violence. He needed to stop filling his heart with these things and start filling it with truth and righteousness. He needed to put off the old self and put on the new self.

2. Put on the new self.

I want to go back to my testimony for a minute. My life did not change any after that night that I received Christ into my life. In fact, I lived a more carnal and fleshly life the next year than the prior year. The problem was that I did not have relationship with any Christians. I did not know how to grow. I was not taught by anyone. I just kept living according to my fleshly mind and desires. My flesh was being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit.

Between my sophomore and junior year at TCU, I went to summer school. The oil company only paid for one trip a year to Iran and I had used it at Christmas. I also wanted to get ahead in my studies so that I could focus my attention to my golf game in my senior year. While at summer school, we had to stay in a different dormitory. I was in a room next to another student who was on fire for the Lord. Jim was a leader in Campus Crusade for Christ.

Jim began to share with me how to grow as a Christian. He told me to begin reading my Bible every

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day. He taught me the necessity of fellowshiping with other believers. I began to attend the weekly Campus Crusade meetings. I also began going to McKinney Bible Church. All at once, my life began to change. As I put on the new self my life changed. As I renewed my mind with the Word of God, my life began to change.

In verse 23, Paul tells us that we must be renewed in the spirit of our minds. We are to be transformed into the likeness of God, who is righteous, holy, and full of truth.

(Ephesians 4:23) "and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind"

In 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 Paul shares about being renewed in the spirit of your mind. He tells us that when we become a Christian, we have the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God reveals to us the thoughts of God. The natural man or man who has not received Christ cannot understand these spiritual truths, because He does not have the Spirit of God. Paul concludes by saying that we have the mind of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 2:10-16) "For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. {11} For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. {12} Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, {13} which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. {14} But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. {15} But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. {16} For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE SHOULD INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ."

In Romans 12:1-2, we have the classic passage about spiritual transformation. Paul says that we are to present our bodies as living and holy sacrifices. Second, he tells us not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Third, we are to prove the will of God in our lives. The proving means testing to find approved. As we go through life, we must test whether it is good. We must test things to see if they are acceptable to God. We must test things to see if they are perfect. As we flesh out the things that we are learning, we are transformed.

(Romans 12:1-2) "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. {2} And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

G1381. dokimazo, dok-im-ad'-zo; from G1384; to test (lit. or fig.); by impl. to approve:--allow, discern, examine, X like, (ap-) prove, try.

Remember what George Barna said about our culture. He concluded that the church today is moving further from the truth. The mindset or worldview of the Christian is not Biblically based. Furthermore, the younger generation was moving further away from a Biblical mindset. The significance is that our actions are based on our mindset.

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This is exactly what Jesus taught. In Matthew 15:18 and in Mark 7:20-23, He tells us that the words we speak and the actions we do come from within the heart. Our heart is our mind, emotion and will. The heart is the seat of our intellect. Our hearts or our minds must be transformed. If we do not have a transformation in the way that we think, we will not have a transformation in the way we live.

(Mark 7:20-23) "And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. {21} "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, {22} deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. {23} "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.""

Paul gives several different examples of laying aside things and putting on the new self. He mentions that we must lay aside falsehood and speak truth to one another.

(Ephesians 4:25) "Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH, EACH ONE** of you, **WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another."

Next, Paul tells us to be angry, yet do not sin. We are not to let the sun go down on our anger and we are not to give the devil an opportunity. We have to learn how to deal with our emotions. We have to learn to forgive and release people. We have to learn to settle things, rather than sweeping them under the carpet and letting them fester overnight. We have to get the thorns out of our flesh before they become infected. People need to learn how to resolve conflict. We need our minds renewed in this area.

(Ephesians 4:26-27) "**BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger, {27} and do not give the devil an opportunity."

Paul tells those who have a problem with stealing to steal no longer, but to work with their own hands. Furthermore, he tells them to learn to be givers, who share with other people.

(Ephesians 4:28) "Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need."

Paul tells us to put a guard over our mouths and not let anything unwholesome come out. We are only to allow those things that edify or build up others. We are only to speak the things that are needed at that time. We are only to speak those things that give grace to others. We must have our minds renewed so that we speak only fitting things. Our hearts have to be renewed, since the words of our mouth come from the heart.

(Ephesians 4:29) "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Paul finishes by telling us to let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from us, along with all malice. We are to replace this with the actions of the new self, which is to be kind to one another, tender-hearted, and forgiving each other.

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(Ephesians 4:31-32) "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. {32} And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

In verse 30, Paul tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom we were sealed for the day of redemption. Our former way of life, living in sensuality and the lusts of the flesh grieve the Holy Spirit. Remember, that God is wanting to build a temple. We are the temple or naos of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not dwell where there is bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, divisions, immorality, and other sins. He is the Holy Spirit. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 4:30) "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

Paul has addressed this letter to the saints who are at Ephesus. The saints are the holy ones. We are not just to be called saints, we are to live like saints. To do that we must put off the old self and put on the new self.

I would like to take a few minutes to give some practical application of putting on the new self and renewing the mind. Again, I will use some personal illustrations. This is how the Lord has worked in me.

I struggled with anxiety for a while. You can ask Karen, but I am not an anxious person. I do not struggle with fear and anxiety. The Lord had me find out what His word says about anxiety. I looked up all the verses that I could find on anxiety. Then, I memorized the verses. Next, I meditated on the verses. I looked and prayed about understanding and applications for me. Here are some of the verses that I looked at for anxiety.

(Ps 94:19) "When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Thy consolations delight my soul."

(Pr 12:25) "Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs it down, But a good word makes it glad."

(Philippians 4:6-8) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. {7} And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. {8} Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

(1 Pe 5:7) "casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you."

Because the opposite of anxiety is peace, I also memorized and meditated on verses that spoke about the peace of God. This included verses like Isaiah 26:3 and Galatians 5:22-23.

(Isaiah 26:3) ""The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in Thee."

(Galatians 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Now, here are some of the applications in my life. When I began to be anxious, I would begin to speak good words, since a good work makes the heart glad. I spoke words of encouragement to myself. As a professional golfer, I became my own coach and supporter. I worked hard at positive communication.

Phil 4:7-8 told me to think about things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellence, and worthy of praise. Therefore, I limited my thoughts to only those things. I thought about good shots, not bad shots. I thought of shots that were worthy of praise and applause. I thought about lovely things. I changed the thought patterns. Consequently, the fruit became very good. I began to have peace instead of anxiety.

The battleground is in the mind. Therefore, you have to do a different warfare. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 10:5-6 that we are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. Therefore, I took every thought captive. If I began to have an anxious thought, I arrested it. I took it captive. Then, I began to think about the consolations of God, the good thoughts, the pure thoughts, the lovely thoughts, etc.

(2 Corinthians 10:5-6) "We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, {6} and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete."

In Philippians 4:6, when Paul tells us to be anxious for nothing, he is telling us to take those thoughts captive. We are to refuse to be anxious. We are not to allow these perpetrators to take us hostage. Instead, we are to take them captive and refuse to be anxious.

The same principles that I used for anxiety, I used in many other areas of life. I use to be very impatient. As I meditated on verses about patience, the Lord gave me understanding about processes and seasons. In particular, He used James 5:7-8. That passage changed me and helped me to play much more wisely on the PGA Tour.

(James 5:7-8) "Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. {8} You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

Conclusion

This morning, the Lord may have been speaking to you about a number of things. If you have never made a decision to follow Christ, and would like to do that this morning, we would be happy to pray with you. It is a very simple thing to do, but a life changing experience. It will change the eternal course and destiny of your life. This decision will change the quality of your life. You too can experience the peace of God in your life, just like I did.

For others of you, Paul's word about putting on the new self is not something that you have given

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yourself to whole-heartedly. You may want to commit to fighting a good fight. You have areas in your life, whether they are trusting in God's provision, dealing with fear, anger, forgiveness, bitterness, or lying.

It may be that you do not edify others, but put them down. Ephesians 4:29 can transform marriages. If husbands and wives will begin to build up one another privately and publicly, they will change the spirit of their marriage. If they begin to honor one another with their words, you will see a change in your marriage. This may be a verse for you and your spouse to memorize, meditate, and apply in your life.

If you are struggling with an area and want some help finding some passages and some artillery to use in the battle, let me know. I will be glad to help you find some Scriptures to help renew your mind in that particular area. Furthermore, I will be glad to pray for you in this area.

God is wanting us to be have the likeness of Christ in our attitudes, actions and words. He wants a bride without wrinkle, spot, or blemish. He wants a holy dwelling place for His Holy Spirit. The remedy is simple, we must lay aside the old self and put on the new self.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Eph 4:1, 2 Cor 5:17, 5:21, Eph 4:17-32)

Two types of Sanctification:

1. _____ Sanctification (2 Cor 5:21)
2. _____ Sanctification (2 Cor 5:17)

1. Lay Aside The _____.

- The church has a responsibility to _____ and make disciples of new believers.
- Each Christian must take responsibility for the _____ process of his mind.

2. Put on the _____. (Eph 4:23, 1 Cor 2:10-16, Rom 12:1-2, Mark 7:20-23, Eph 4:25, 4:26-27, 4:28, 4:29, 4:31-32, 4:30)

- G1381. dokimazo; from G1384; to test (lit. or fig.); by impl. to approve:--allow, discern, examine, X like, (ap-) prove, try.
- The Holy Spirit is grieved by _____.
- You and I are _____ (naos – dwelling places) of the Holy Spirit.

Practical Outworking

- Example of anxiety (Ps 94:19, Pr 12:25, Phil 4:6-8, 1 Pet 5:7, Is 26:3, Gal 5:22-23)
- We must take every _____ captive. (2 Cor 10:5-6)
- Example of patience (James 5:7-8)

Applications for my life:

1.

2.

Introduction (Eph 4:1, 2 Cor 5:17, 5:21, Eph 4:17-32)

Two types of Sanctification:

1. _____ Sanctification (2 Cor 5:21)
2. _____ Sanctification (2 Cor 5:17)

1. Lay Aside The _____.

- The church has a responsibility to _____ and make disciples of new believers.
- Each Christian must take responsibility for the _____ process of his mind.

2. Put on the _____. (Eph 4:23, 1 Cor 2:10-16, Rom 12:1-2, Mark 7:20-23, Eph 4:25, 4:26-27, 4:28, 4:29, 4:31-32, 4:30)

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