

ph 4:22-24

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

KJV

In Victoria, Canada, there is one tourist attraction that entertains one million guests each year. It is a flower garden. (Pictures [136](#), [140](#), [144](#).)

What makes the story of this particular flower garden so amazing is that it was planted on a rock quarry near a cement company that used the rock to manufacture concrete.

The wife of the man who owned the land transformed what was one of the ugliest places in Victoria into one of the most beautiful places in the world.

[Over one million people a year pay \\$28.00 a person to see this transformation!](#)

The transformation of this rock quarry into a beautiful garden was a very difficult process for which the man and his wife paid a very great price.

It reminded me of the transformation that Christ wants to make in each one of our lives after he saves us from sin. He too paid a very great price and the transformation of our soul into his image is a very difficult process.

[Apart from His power it cannot be done.](#)

But our Lord pledges His power to anyone who will be fully committed to the process.

To be transformed, we have to be fully committed to put off the old and put on the new.

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The old is the sinful conduct and attitudes of what Paul called the old man. Those old sinful habits continue to be a problem because we continue to live in what Paul called the flesh.

Gal 5:16-17

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

KJV

We live in a world deceived by the devil.

Rev 12:9

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

KJV

To do the work of transformation, Christ has given us His Word and His Spirit.

His spirit empowers us and teaches us thru the Word how to live in a way that glorifies Christ. Thru one difficult situation after another the Spirit of Christ does His work. He trains us how to respond to difficult situations.

He is far more concerned with how we respond than if we are treated justly!

This is difficult for us to understand and reconcile with our understanding of His love.

Every severe trial is also a trial of faith. We want justice in this world to confirm His love for us.

He wants to use the injustice to train us to put off our old sinful habits of responding to injustice and put on the new.

Besides His Spirit and His Word, He has also given us one another.

We learn what needs to be transformed in us by...

- Personal devotions
- Preaching
- Personal examples
- Personal confrontation.

To put off the old and put on the new, we must...

- **Have a vision of what needs to change based on biblical principles.** We must know where we are. We must understand our problem and what Christ wants to become. If we are a liar, we must have a vision of becoming truthful. If we lose control of our temper, we must have a vision of becoming patient and long suffering. If we make spiteful remarks with our tongue, we must have a vision of speaking only that which edifies. To be transformed we must have a vision of what needs to change. In proverbs the bible says where there is no vision the people perish.
- **Accept responsibility for our problem.** We must blame only ourselves. We will never put off the old and put on the new if we blame our parents, our circumstances, or someone else. We need to be transformed because we were

conceived in sin. It is natural for us to sin. Other people may influence us or even abuse us, but we choose to do what is wrong because it was our nature.

- **Confess our sin to all who have been directly injured.** By confessing our sin we are also confessing to others what we want to become. A biblical confession always addresses everyone you have affected. A biblical confession is always very specific. There are never any if's, or maybe's, or but's. A biblical confession acknowledges the hurt that has been caused. A biblical confession accepts the consequences for the wrong. A biblical confession explains how you will alter your attitudes and your behavior. A biblical confession includes asking for forgiveness.
- **Restructure our lives according to biblical principles.** We must have a biblical plan for what we are going to do to put off the old and put on the new man. To the thief, Paul said work with your hands.

Eph 4:25-29

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

KJV

Imagine a thief who took the first three steps but did not take this one. As soon as he was hungry again, he would resort to stealing again. To put off the old, he would have to aggressively put on the new.

Your commitment to change must be whatever it takes. You're whatever may not be the same as your brothers. Some men are more vulnerable to sin than others because of their experience. You may have to go to what some would consider extremes to put off the old and put on the new. You may not have to go as far as others. Don't underestimate what you need to do and don't judge others by what they do not need to do. What is important is, are you still a thief?

To restructure our lives based on biblical principles we must always include personal devotions. Honest communication with God is essential to change. If we are putting off the old and putting on the new in an interpersonal relationship we will have to regular scheduled times to maintain honest communication with those who are directly injured by our sin. If we are putting off the old and putting on the new we need to seek fellowship with those who are winning the battles that we are fighting.

If someone has a habit of spending more than they earn, to put off the old and put on the new, they need to convert to a cash only system of spending. They need to stop using cards and checks.

If a man or a woman is guilty of fornication or adultery, they need to cut off all interaction with that which is causing them to fail. They need to replace what they cut off with habits that do not subject them to this temptation.

If you are guilty of gluttony or some other addiction that is damaging to your health or your testimony, keep those things out of your house and your immediate surroundings. Stop going to buffets when you go out to eat. Replace what you stop with something that is good for you that you still enjoy.

To put off the old and put on the new you have to restructure your life according to biblical principles.

Jay Adams says in his book “Competent To Counsel” the greatest cause of mental illness is laziness.

Prov 12:24

24 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

KJV

One of the pictures that Sandra took while we were at the garden was of a bee indulging itself from the nectar of one of the flowers.([Picture 145](#)).

There are not very many bees in a rock quarry. The vision for change of this one lady became a blessing to the rest of nature. It also became a blessing to an entire community. Can you imagine the blessing that these one million visitors are to the economy of the other businesses in the area? Then there is the blessing this garden is to the nation of Canada. Thru this garden the nation of Canada has become a blessing to the whole world as people from every nation make this place one of their destinations.

When we put off the old and put on the new, our lives become a blessing to all of nature, our community, and the world in which we live.

But most of all, we bring glory to the one who saved us and is remaking us. As I walked thru the garden I could not help but reflect on how great God is. I could not believe how many different beautiful flowers could exist in one garden. Every idea in that ladies mind was first an idea in God’s. He thought of it first and then spoke it into existence. Perhaps what she made was a shadow of the Garden of Eden.

When we put off the old and put on the new, we cause others to think about God. They know in their heart that only God could make such a difference in a man or a woman. We bring glory to our savior. Jesus said if I be lifted up I will draw all men unto myself.

What do you need to put off and put on in your life?

Eph 4:25-32

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27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

KJV