Old Man-New man

 A Brief commentary

 by

 Ken Rush

Old Man-New Man

*Colossians 3:8-10 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have* ***put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man,*** *which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

The above verses are speaking tosaved people, born again people. It would be impossible for unsaved people to “put on the new man.” This is a work of the Holy Spirit, in His bringing us to salvation. We must first put on Christ. That is, we must first experience God’s great salvation. When we turn from our sin and throw ourselves on the mercy of God, He performs a great miracle in our lives by changing us completely. He changes our thinking concerning spiritual things, He changes our desires, and He gives us a completely new life, with assurance of eternal life. He makes of us a new creation. We actually become a new man.

*2 Cointhians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

A long time friend and great Bible teacher Dr. Geoffery Adams (who was at the time principal of Toronto Baptist Seminary in Toronto Ontario) was speaking at a Bible Conference in Lansing Michigan, and **jokingly** told this story**:** He said since his wife’s maiden name was Newman, and she married an Adams, that he has been accused of making an old Adam out of a New man.

That of course was told jokingly because those present knew that is not possible, for when God saves us we are secure in His grace. Satan cannot steal us away from God.

*John 10:26-28 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

The amazing thing is that, God can take **us,** Adam’s children, who have inherited Adam’s sin, who ourselves are abhorrent sinners, who are destined to hell, and makes of us new men through the shed blood of our saviour Jesus Christ.

*Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is* ***crucified*** *with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should* ***not*** *serve sin.*

*Ephesians 4:22-24* ***That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man,*** *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;* ***And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*** *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

We see here that our “old man” was crucified in order that we should be set free from sin. Yet God through the Apostle Paul, tells us that we should put off the old man. We must conclude that the putting off of the “old man” is a conscious act of a person already saved, (a new man) therefore, we have the help of The Holy Spirit to do so. Our newfound desire to please God, will also make us desire to leave behind our old sinful ways, and **this is of course brought about by the Holy Spirit working within us.**

*Romans 6:12* ***Let not*** *sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof*.

Many unsaved people think that they must do a work such as this to earn their salvation, however, that is impossible, for unsaved man cannot effectively change his life, and certainly cannot please God. Salvation is a work of God that brings about regeneration rather than reformation.

*Romans 8:7,8 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* ***So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.***

Once we are saved, God gives us new life, and new light. Therefore we are to reckon ourselves dead to those evil things. **We should live as the new man He has made us.** Let me repeat, putting off the old man is something we must consciously do. We have power to do it because we are indwelt by The Holy Spirit. Let not the reader think that I am adding a lot of legalism here, a lot of do’s and don’ts. When we are genuinely saved, our desires are changed and we do not desire to live as the unsaved, but rather, we desire to please God. Therefore, this command to put off the old man, is not asking something impossible or undesirable. We cannot be content in our new found faith until we begin to abhor and despise our old man. It is not an act of making ourselves better, that is impossible, but we must yield control of our lives to the Holy Spirit, and **He** will change us. **It is simply a case of submitting to God’s will.**

*Colossians 3:2,3* ***Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead****, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

*Romans 6:11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

What does He mean ye are dead? Has not God given us new life? We are to reckon ourselves dead to that past life of sin, **it no longer has power to control us.** The old man has been crucified. We have been set free from Satan’s hold upon us where we could not help ourselves, however, we still live in this sinful world with all its temptations constantly before us, therefore, we must continually yield to the Holy Spirit who indwells us to keep from falling into those temptations and practicing those worldly sins. **We cannot stand without God.** We must walk with Him in order to be an overcomer, for the battle is fought by God, and **all righteousness is of God.**

*Colossians 3:4-10 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*  ***Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.***

What does mortify mean?-----The Greek Word in this passage for which we use mortify is “nekroo” pronounced “nek-ro’-o;” which means to slay, destroy the strength of, be dead to it.This is something we need to practice as a daily thing, for Satan will use every opportunity to hinder our testimony.We do this not by our own strength but by constant submission to God’s will. We find **the more we submit to God’s will the more we want to.** We have a song “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” The Chorus reads “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face And the things of earth grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.” Proverbs 3:5,6 are very good verses to follow concerning our submission to God.

*Proverbs 3:5,6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.* *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

*l Thessalonians 2:11,12 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted* ***and charged every one of you, as a******father doth his children,******That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.***

One evidence of our salvation is our changed desires and conversation, concerning God and His Word.

*Galatians 5:24: And they that are Christ's* ***have crucified the flesh*** *with the affections and lusts.:*

*Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin,* ***but ye have obeyed from the heart*** *that form of doctrine which was delivered you* ***Being then made free from sin,*** *ye became t****he servants of righteousness.***

No longer a slave to sin. We are now free to serve God, to love God, to enjoy all the benefits of being a member of God’s family. How precious it is to know that God loved us enough to take us from our sinful decadent condition, and make of us a **new man**.

Let us understand, we cannot put off the “old man”until we desire to do so, and we cannot really desire to do so until we have become a “new man” indwelt and directed by the Holy Spirit of God.

My friend if you have been trying to get rid of your sin, and yet find yourself desiring sinful things continually, perhaps you should re-examine your salvation. Make sure you are really born again. If you find you are not, throw yourself on God’s mercy and ask Him to save you through the shed blood of Christ.

*2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

In Conclusion: Putting off the “old man” and putting on the “new man” **are both completely acts of God.** All unsaved man can do is respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, by repentance, (turn from sin to God, throwing yourself on His mercy for forgiveness).

Even the repentance is given of God**:**

*2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;* ***if God peradventure will give them repentance*** *to the acknowledging of the truth;*

Likewise all that God expects of the Christian is to submit to His will allowing Him to direct our lives. He will protect us from this world’s sinful ways, direct our lives, and forgive us when we fail.

*John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

A final exhortation to Christians**:**

*Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*