

## **What we Do –The Imperative Nature of Putting on the New Man**

In the beginning was the Word. What did the word do? The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory. Glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. He was in the beginning. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:1-18). He is the vine, we are the branches. If we abide in Him and He in us we bear much fruit, for we can do nothing of ourselves apart from Him (John 15:5). Our doing is dependent on being in Him and He in us. Apart from Him we can do nothing. This is the imperative nature of putting on the new man. We can do nothing until we have put on the new man. Nothing!

Anything that we do apart from Christ is a dead work. Wood, hay, stubble. Fuel for the fire. All that we do that is a part of Him is fruit unto righteousness. Gold, silver and precious stones (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). If we are walking according to the flesh then we will be angry, impatient, jealous, etc, we reap the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 1:9-10). If we are walking according to the Spirit then we have life, joy, peace, patience, etc., we reap the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and the love of God is at work in us and through us. We are sharp tools in His hand, prepared for every good work. If we do not have the love of God in us, and we are walking after the old, then everything that we do is a dead work, no matter how good it may be. This is what Paul meant in Corinthians 13 when he said that if we do not have love, though we do all things, even great and wonderful things, even spiritual things, we are nothing. The final evidence that the new man is in the house is that we do the works of God. It is the expression of the supernatural reality of what we are in Christ Jesus. It is the outworking of that which God has worked into us.

I can do nothing of myself, but I do those things I see the Father doing. Jesus walked among us, and we beheld His glory. The same glory is now in us, and we are to live in such a way that men see our good works and give glory to God (Matthew 5:16). In other words, the glory of God in us becomes evident in what we do. God has put His glory in us, and we can let it out in what we do, so that men can see it, and give it back to God. This is the mystery of godliness. That is, that God lives in us and can be seen in us just as he could be seen in Christ when He walked among us. Christ is now in us, the hope of glory. And this hope is evident to those around us in what we do, when we do the works of the Father.

Putting on the new man affects what we are, what we think, what we say, and what we do. In order to put on the new, we must first put off the old (Ephesians 4:22-24). Then we may truly walk in the newness of life that is found only in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:4-23). When asked, "What should we do that we may work the works of God?" Jesus said, "This is the work of God, That you believe in Him whom He has sent." (John 6:28-29) By faith we abide in Him. But He must also abide in us in order for us to bear much fruit (John 15:5). This is the goal of new man training, the putting on of the new man. The release of the life of Christ in us, that Christ may be what He is completely in us. It is about the overcoming of the internal opposition to the new life that God has put in us. It is about the unleashing of the Spirit of God in accordance with knowledge, that we may live godly lives in this present life and shine as bright as the stars in the life to come. It is imperative that we put on the new man. We can do nothing until we have put on the new man. Nothing! So put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regards to its lusts (Romans 13:14). The new man is in the house. Let Him out!

## **Additional thoughts**

It is imperative that we operate in newness of life. It is imperative that we walk by faith, not by sight. It is imperative that we abide in Christ. It is imperative that we put on the new man and make no provisions for the flesh in regard to its lusts. If we make provisions for the flesh, we make accommodations just like the Holiday Inn makes accommodations and the natural man becomes very comfortable and wants to stay around awhile. But if we deny the flesh, and refuse to be accommodating in regards to the lusts of the flesh, then the natural man becomes weaker and weaker until before you know it we are walking in power, praise God.

Power you say! You better believe it. The very power of God almighty. For the same man that raised the dead, healed the sick, cast out demons and preached deliverance to the captives lives inside of you and me, if indeed the new man is in the house. When Peter spoke at Pentecost, there was power, and about three thousand people were saved. When Paul came to the Corinthians, he did not come to them with persuasive words of wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. When the beggar asked Peter and John for money, they said "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give unto thee. Rise and walk in the name of Jesus." When we walk in newness of life there is power, God's power. Today. Now. We can experience the power of God, daily.

It begins with walking by faith. When the lady behind the cash register at the grocery store says she isn't feeling well, instead of saying your sorry tell her to be healed in the name of Jesus. When you feel a sore throat coming on, rebuke it in Jesus name, and be filled with God's life giving Spirit, Who gives life and health to our mortal bodies. Walk by faith, not by sight. Make no provisions for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

By putting on the new man, we walk as He walked. We think as He thought. We speak as He spoke. And we do as He did. We become "Christ like" in our daily living, and that is what it is all about. We are doing the done. Christ has already done all things on the cross. We move from victory to victory. Even death has lost its sting. It is imperative that we put on the new man and walk in newness of life, making no provisions for the flesh.

When the new man is in the house and operating freely, everyone is blessed. The individual believer is blessed. Those around him or her are blessed. Coworkers are blessed. The neighborhood is blessed. Even the city, state and nation are blessed. The new man brings blessing. He is the source of all blessing. All good things are found in Him.

And if God lives in us, then we are dead to sin and alive unto righteousness. We are to cease from sin, and do righteousness.

Everything that Jesus did, is doing and will do is already

When the new man is in the house our doing flows out of our being, out of what we are in Christ. Everything is already finished in Christ, it is done, and so anything we do has already been done. We are doing the done. If what we do springs forth out of what we are in Christ, then it is fruit unto righteousness. If we operate out of what we were before Christ laid hold of us, then we are engaged in dead works and it is of no consequence to the kingdom of God. It is Martha and Mary all over again.

When the new man is in the house, God reveals to us what we are in his Son Christ Jesus, and our thinking is affected. We have put on the mind of Christ. And when we put on the mind of Christ and think the thoughts of God, our speaking is affected and we speak the truth of God. Out of our being, thinking and speaking comes our doing. We must first be before we can do.

How do we know what the Father is doing? Through communion with Him. By praying unceasingly. By practicing His presence.

Bottom line – What are we to do? We are to believe in God and His Son Jesus, the Christ, the anointed One sent from God. We must be in Christ before anything else matters. When Martha came to Jesus to complain that Mary was not helping her do, Jesus said that only one thing really mattered, and that is Christ. Next we are to be devoted to God's Word (the apostle's teaching) and to prayer. By filling our hearts and minds with God's word and by praying unceasingly we will experience the power of God in our lives.

"I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

We must be willing to do His will before He will reveal His will to us. Our knowledge of God is directly proportional to our willingness to do, bringing us full circle, back to what we are, think and say. Do God's will.