

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

HOSTING THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH PERSONAL HOLINESS EPHESIANS 4:17-32

STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Dr. Ché Ahn

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TEXT: Ephesians 4:17 So this I say, 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 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one 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, so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30 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 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

INTRO: HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, HARVEST ROCK CHURCH! This is our 29-year anniversary. I believe that we are just getting started as a church. The Lord spoke to my heart that the revival is just getting started (I have used the metaphor, “the river is ankle deep”), but I sensed the Lord say that the revival will really start breaking out next year. It then dawned upon me that next year will be our 30th



anniversary. Is it possible that like Jesus began His ministry when He was 30, and Joseph and David came into their destiny and began to rule when they were 30— may we too come into convergence as a church and bring God’s Kingdom rule to a whole new level when we turn 30!

CLEAN WATER PIPE:

If the “River” that is the Holy Spirit flows from us, the “Temple,” what is the key to the river rising and flowing faster? The best analogy I can give is like a clogged water pipe that needs to be cleaned out in order for the water to flow unhindered. Sin is like the gunk that clogs the water pipe. That is why personal holiness is emphasized in the Bible for hosting the Holy Spirit. That is why repentance must precede revival (Acts 2:42, Acts 3:19, Joel 2:12-28, etc.)

I love this verse found in the Sermon on the Mount: **Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”** You cannot see God or revival without a pure heart. **Hebrews 12:14 Without holiness, no one will see the Lord.**

We know that the Holy Spirit is holy and what welcomes Him is holiness. Conversely, what grieves Him is sin.

How do we practically grow in holiness? We come to a passage in Paul’s Ephesian letter of truth that has helped me immensely: the principle of putting off and putting on. For example, to put off is a practical way of repenting. But to put on is coming in the opposite spirit by putting on biblical values through meditating on God’s Word.

THE PRINCIPLE THAT CHANGED MY LIFE: PUT OFF THE OLD SELF AND PUT ON THE NEW SELF

A. OLD SELF: Ephesians 4:17 So this I say, 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,



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B. THE NEW SELF: Ephesians 4:23 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.

1. To be like Jesus: Ephesians 4:24b “and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God.*” Righteousness: Ephesians 4:24c “has been created in righteousness.” Truth: Ephesians 4:24d “has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” God wants you to walk in righteousness, walk in truth and be like Jesus.
2. Even though you are positionally righteous, God wants you to walk in righteousness. Do what is right.
3. Even though you have a new spirit, your soul, mind, and body are the same.
4. Even though God has made us a new person in Christ, because we have the old body and old mind, we will sin. When we do, we still have to repent and ask God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
5. Putting on a new self includes renewing your mind on God’s Word. By renewing your mind, you are developing biblical values in your life to live by. As you do this on an ongoing basis, this becomes a habit. An ongoing habit becomes a lifestyle. This is what it means to work out your salvation in fear and trembling.
6. **Ephesians 4:23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind**
7. **Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world by be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**
8. **Philippians 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.**
9. Some of you have tried to do what I am teaching, and you are stuck. You need inner healing. Ken Fish said that he traveled with Lonnie Frisbee for one year. If he knew then what he knows now, Ken would have taken him away for a weekend with two other mature brothers and ministered inner healing and deliverance to him. Some of you need inner healing and deliverance. I see this need increasing. Hope Center: set up a counseling time with our trained counselors, trained in Restoring The Foundations and Sozo. I have gone through inner healing a number of times.
10. But for the majority of you, it is a daily walk with Jesus by putting away bad habits and putting on new habits.
11. I applied this to my eating habits and put away bad food and started to eat clean foods, including less beef. Exercise was never the problem. For some of you, you do need to exercise to get healthier.



12. It takes grace to work out your salvation. “Apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). “I am what I am by the grace of God” (1 Corinthians 15:10).
 13. **Philippians 1:6** *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*
 14. God gives the grace to change. Grace is manifested in the desire to change. The word *desire* in the Latin: *de* – “of,” *sire* – “of the Father.”
- C. THREE KEYS TO DEVELOPING CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER**
1. **Put Off: REPENTANCE.**
 2. **Put On: DEVELOPING BIBLICAL VALUES BASED ON GOD’S WORD.**
 3. **Put On: TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY BY COMING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT AND BY PROACTIVELY BEING A DOER OF THE WORD.** We are going to apply these three points in this message.

PURPOSE STATEMENT: FIVE AREAS THAT WE ARE TO PUT OFF AND PUT ON IN OUR TEXT

- I. PUT OFF LYING AND PUT ON SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE**
 - A. REPENT OF LYING**
 1. **Ephesians 4:25** *Therefore, laying aside falsehood.* Repent of lying, exaggerations, telling partial truths, etc.
 - B. BUILD THE VALUE OF TRUTH TELLING BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD**
 1. **Proverbs 6:16** *There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*
- C. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BY PROACTIVELY SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE**
 1. Learn to understand before you are understood. Be a good listener.
 2. How do we speak truth? a) Ask God for Wisdom for the right time and what to do. b) Encouragement: Speak words of encouragement, especially character qualities. c) Correction: Speak the truth in love. d) Encouragement: Finish with words of affirmation.



II. PUT OFF UNRIGHTEOUS ANGER AND PUT ON RIGHTEOUS ANGER

A. REPENT OF UNRIGHTEOUS ANGER

1. Ephesians 4:26 **BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN** [Psalm 4:4]. Do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

B. BUILD THE VALUE OF NOT BEING AN ANGRY PERSON BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD

1. Proverbs 22:24 **Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man.**
2. Proverbs 29:22 **A man of wrath stirs up strife, and one given to anger causes much transgression.**

C. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BY PROACTIVELY ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS BEFORE THE SUN SETS

III. PUT OFF STEALING AND PUT ON WORKING WITH YOUR HANDS AND BEING GENEROUS WITH THE NEEDY

A. REPENT OF STEALING

1. Ephesians 4:28 **He who steals must steal no longer.**
2. Exodus 20:15 **“You shall not steal.”**
3. Malachi 3:8 **“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.”**

B. BUILD THE VALUE OF HONESTY AND HARD WORK BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD

1. Malachi 3:10 **“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,”** says the LORD of hosts, **“if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”**
2. Ephesians 3:28b **...but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something to share with one who has need.***
3. Colossians 3:23 **Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.**
4. Proverbs 10:4 **Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.**

C. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BY PROACTIVELY BEING FAITHFUL IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS AND GIVING TO THE NEEDY



1. I have not had a problem with giving or doing hard work. But I have always been lazy and looked for shortcuts and the path of least resistance for things I deemed unimportant. I am coming in the opposite spirit and making a choice to do the opposite of what my flesh wants. E.g. Picking up things, making my bed, tidying up my room and office before I leave the house.

IV. PUT OFF UNWHOLESOME SPEECH, BUT SPEAK PROPHETIC WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

A. REPENT OF UNWHOLESOME SPEECH

1. **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*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

B. BUILD THE VALUE FOR GOOD SPEECH WITH THE WORD OF GOD.

1. **Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

C. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BY PROACTIVELY GIVING A POSITIVE WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT WHEN YOU ARE WITH OTHERS.

V. PUT OFF BITTERNESS, WRATH, ANGER, CLAMOR, SLANDER AND MALICE, BUT PUT ON KINDNESS, TENDERNESS AND FORGIVENESS

A. REPENT OF BITTERNESS, SLANDER AND GOSSIP

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

B. BUILD THE VALUE FOR FORGIVENESS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

1. **Ephesians 4:32** Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
2. **Jesus said in Matthew 6:14**, “For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

C. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BY PROACTIVELY GETTING RECONCILED WITH OTHERS

1. E.g. My dad.

CONCLUSION: This past week, we had another deadly shooting where seven people were killed, including three 9-year-old children. The progressive Left uses this to advocate stricter gun laws. But the problem is not with guns; it is the condition of the heart. People have been killing from the beginning of humanity, when Cain killed his brother Abel, when there were no guns. Are we going to ban knives, axes, hammers, etc.? The issue is the heart.

Yet the media, FBI, and DOJ won't talk about the motivation of this transgender woman for killing these people, even though she wrote a manifesto. We have to ask *why*? Is it because no one wants to blame the heart of the person in order to put the focus on firearms? The Bible focus on the heart. The heart is wicked. It has rebelled against God and His law against murder. Even without the knowledge of the Ten Commandments, in everyone's conscience, we know it is morally wrong to take another person's life.

The truth is that we are all sinners in need of saving grace. God offers grace through the saving work of Jesus, who died for our sins, took our sins upon Himself, and paid for the punishment we deserve. He was the sacrificial Lamb that takes away the sins of the world.

How do we have our sins forgiven? We repent, surrender our lives to His Lordship, and we receive His saving grace by faith. He will supernaturally come into our heart and give us a new heart and put His Spirit within us. That is what it means to be born again.

Then we grow in our relationship with Jesus by being part of a local church. By spending time reading the Bible and talking to God in prayer. And by putting off our bad habits and putting on new habits by His grace. That is how we come into personal holiness. We become holy as He is holy.

