

Empowered Action
Ephesians 4:22-24

I. Intro

A. Patriotic Statement:

1. Let us thank the Lord for our country, our freedom, and our life
2. Let us recognize the blessing we have in freedom in our country, and at the same time the reality of dependance on God.
3. Let us not use this freedom wrongly, but capitalize on it by serving the Lord with freedom!
4. God has blessed America, and with much blessing comes much responsibility!
 - a) Let us stand for truth
 - b) Let us proclaim the message that brings hope
 - c) Let us yield to the Spirit's work in our lives
5. We should pray for a return to Christian values, a return to truth, a return to a love of the Bible.

B. In the renewal of the mind of a believer, many theological truths are evident

C. Today we look past the contrast of what we were, and look to what we are, and are becoming.

D. What you were is not what you are, and it is not what you are becoming IN CHRIST.

E. Learn from the past, let go of the past, look to the blessing of Jesus in TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS

II. Text

A. Verse 22:

1. put off the old self
2. This is an empowered action

B. Verse 23

1. Be renewed in the Spirit of your minds
2. This is an empowered action

C. Verse 24

1. Put on the new self
2. This is an empowered action
3. Created after the likeness of God in TRUE righteousness and holiness:
4. This is the action of empowerment

D. Verse 25: This is the result of this beautiful collision

III. Point: Empowered Action

A. Empowered Action comes from God

1. Supernatural expectation comes with empowered action
 - a) The expectation of God are not diminished because of sin nature
 - b) The expected actions come with the empowerment of the Spirit
2. Empowerment:
 - a) Brings confidence
 - b) Like a 4 year old boy with a batman costume.
3. Cross Reference:
 - a) [Deu 31:6 ESV] 6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."
 - b) [Act 1:8 ESV] 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
 - c) [1Jo 2:18-20 ESV] 18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that

it might become plain that they all are not of us. 20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

- d) [Col 1:9-14 ESV] 9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- e) And as we have recently studied: Ephesians 3:16-17, Ephesians 4:12
- 4. The actions of faithful followers are completely reliant on the work of God in you.
- 5. The decision to act comes from the overflow of right relationship with God.
 - a) The renewal of the mind is only possible by the Spirit's work.
 - b) The renewal of the mind is an ongoing daily decision by the person trusting God.
- B. Created after the likeness of God
 - 1. This is the SPIRITUAL REALITY of the believer:
 - a) God's design for us is to be made new, daily
 - b) God's design for us is to learn to respond to His leadership.
 - c) Spiritual discipline brings us to a point of proper response to God
 - 2. The great battle:
 - a) Man has a will, and we make choices
 - b) God has a plan, and we work to accomplish that plan.
 - c) God works His plan in the way He chooses, and that will bring Him the most glory.
- C. In True Righteousness and Holiness
 - 1. There is sure a lot of fake righteousness and holiness out there, but it will never bring the peace of Christ.
 - 2. Self Righteousness and Humanistic Holiness will continue to drive a wedge between a person and right relationship with God.
 - 3. True Righteousness/Holiness is seen in the life and example of Christ
 - 4. This comes to us and Empowers Action because of the rescue:
 - a) in Christ alone,
 - b) through grace alone,
 - c) by faith alone
 - d) For the glory of God alone
 - e) Learned about in the faithfulness of the scripture alone.
 - 5. You will not find TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS and HOLINESS:
 - a) In explaining away the parts of the Bible that you don't enjoy
 - b) In an independent spirit, refusing to acknowledge your dependence on God.
- IV. Close
 - A. Learn, Live, Lead:
 - 1. Learn about Christ
 - 2. Live for Christ
 - 3. Lead others to experience Christ
 - B. Empowerment from God brings an action from the believer!

[Eph 4:22-25 ESV] 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.