

Putting off the Old, Putting on the New

When we become new creations in Christ, we're told it's our responsibility to put off the old self and put on the new—to put off whatever remains of our old sin nature, and to put on Christlike character and actions (Ephesians 4:22-24). This is part of our surrendering of ourselves as living sacrifices so that we'll no longer conform to the ways of the world, but be transformed and renewed in our minds (Romans 12:1-2).

Do we take this seriously enough? If we surrender ourselves to God, is it in general terms without any real consideration of the old that we should willingly take off and the new we should purposefully don? Shouldn't we be considering, or asking God to reveal, certain areas of weakness that lead to sin, specific habits or thought patterns that remain part of us, yet are not honoring to Him? Do we thoughtfully put them off in prayer, and ask God to replace them with the opposite positive character traits that make us more like Christ? For example, we might pray for God's help—

Help me to put off pride—and put on humility.

Help me to put off my critical nature—and put on acceptance of others.

Help me to put off worrying—and put on the peace that comes through trusting You.

This is surely prayer that God will answer.