



EPHESIANS

DAY 4

Ephesians 4

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SO HOW DO WE DO THIS?

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NLT)

“Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God – truly righteous and holy.”

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NIV)

“...to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

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It's important we note that Paul's message opens with a sense of urgency: “I want you to get out there and walk – better yet, run! – on the road God called you to travel” (MSG). This means the work starts now – not tomorrow, not when we feel like it, but now. While Paul's instructions include modeling attributes similar to the gifts of the spirit as found in Galatians, he also talks about anger (vs. 26-27), getting a job (28), and the way we speak to others (vs. 29, 31-32). These are incredibly practical instructions, and yet Paul is careful to make sure we understand that this isn't about what we DO for Christ, but who we ARE in Christ. We are renewed, and through that renewal we are instilled with the attributes of Christ.

When I create a lesson plan for my students, I begin by making sure they understand What We're Doing (big picture) and Why We're Doing It (rationale and skills development) before I get into the details of How We Do It (step-by-step instructions). If I were to start with the How before introducing the What and the Why, my instructions would make little sense, and my students would follow them without a sense of purpose. Furthermore, the results would not look like the big picture I'd intended for them, and the rationale and opportunity for skill development would be lost. Had the message from Chapter 4 come at the beginning of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, it could be interpreted as a legalistic checklist of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours. Instead, we receive from the author a guidebook of practical, tangible ways to live a life of purpose.

What is God speaking to me about in today's reading?

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY:

