

ONE NEW MAN #2: Being Renewed in the Spirit of the Mind for the Practical Existence of the One New Man (Summary)

- I. **Everything that the Lord is doing in this present age is to usher in the practical existence of the one new man; this is the Lord's move on earth today. Eph.2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace.**
- II. **In our experience as believers in Christ, we should cooperate with the Triune God to put off the old man, which was terminated on the cross, and put on the new man, which was created through Christ's death and resurrection:**
Eph.4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit. 24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- a) In baptism we put off the old man; our old man was crucified with Christ and was buried in baptism. The former manner of life includes everything related to us, especially the community life of the old man.
Rom.6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life. 6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves.
- b) To put off regarding the "former manner of life, the old man" is to put off our way of living. The old man "is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit." The deceit refers to the deceiver, Satan, from whom come the lusts of the corrupted old man.
Eph.4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind, 18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness.
Application: "The vanity of the Gentiles' mind" in verse 17 is contrasted with "the spirit of the new man's mind" in verse 23. In "the vanity of the mind", there is darkness in understanding, ignorance and alienation from the life of God because of the hardness of the heart. And there is numbness, deception and corruption to uncleanness. There was a malicious foul play by the American football clubs of Nihon University with Kwansei Gakuin University recently. The former director and coach of Nihon University were criticized after the interview because there's no consistency in their statements, because of lack of honesty, and because they only tried to protect themselves. In fact, this kind of thing exists not only in this case but also universally in our society. Ignorance, lack of justice, deception, uncleanness, etc., are all from the vanity of the mind. We must exercise our spirit and switch from "the vanity of the mind" to "the spirit of the mind."
- c) To put on the church life as the one new man is to put on a corporate entity produced by the mingling of the divine Spirit with the regenerated human spirit. Eph.4:25 Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation, 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 He who steals should steal no more, but rather should labor, working with his own hands in that which is respectable, that he may have something to share with him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.
- III. **The key to putting off the old man and putting on the new man is in being renewed in the spirit of our mind:**
Eph.4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
- a) When the life-giving Spirit, who dwells in and is mingled with our regenerated spirit, spreads into our mind, this mingled spirit becomes the spirit of the mind; it is by this mingled spirit that our mind is renewed.
- b) To be renewed in the spirit of our mind is inward and intrinsic; the renewing in the spirit of our mind revolutionizes our logic, philosophy, thought, concept, and psychology. Rom.12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- c) The only possibility of God's purpose being fulfilled in this age is that we all would be willing to be renewed in the spirit of our mind.
- IV. **The renewal of the mind is for the practical existence of the one new man:** Col.3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- a) Throughout our life, our national and racial mentality has been built up, and for the existence of the one new man, this mentality must be renewed.
- b) Our natural and national mentality was educated and built up according to our racial and cultural background; this is the greatest hindrance to the practical existence of the one new man. In order for the one new man to come into full existence, we must experience a thorough renewal of our mind, which has been built up according to our nationality and culture.
Application: We should not think that the good aspect of Japanese cultural life will be the help of the church. This will not help building up the one new man. Rather, this is the greatest hindrance. For example, in Japanese culture, people extremely dislike bothering others. "Not bothering other people" is a good thing and is necessary for the social life. However, the problem is that this will turn out to be the goal and make one lose sight of the essence. The essence and goal of the social life is establishing appropriate human relationship through communication, not avoiding bothering others. Due to this tendency of Japanese culture, the communication of Japanese with others is usually shallow. And it is difficult for them to establish human relationship between healthy couple, boss and subordinate, teacher and student, and neighbors in the community. If we live our culture, we cannot live Christ, nor can we build up the new man. Not only should we be saved from the sin, but also be saved from the culture.
- c) Daily we need to put off the old man and put on the new man; for this we need to drink of the one Spirit so that we may be renewed in the spirit of our mind in every area of our daily life.
- d) When we drink of the Spirit, He saturates every part of our being; the first part of our soul that He saturates is our mind.
1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- e) "All those who love Him, pursue Him, and follow Him on the entire earth today must be renewed in the spirit of their mind to become the one new man, taking Him as their person and living by Him. This is what the Lord wants today."

Experience ① : Work by setting our mind to the spirit and then become a superior business person

As those who love Christ, we should not have vanity in our mind; instead, we should have the spirit in our mind. Our mind should no longer be full of vanity; rather, it should be saturated with the mingled spirit.

To be renewed in the spirit of our mind is inward and intrinsic. If we learn to be renewed in this way, we will have a deeper perception with which to understand persons and matters. To understand a person requires that we have a deeper sight, a perception that goes farther and deeper. Often our knowing of people is shallow. We lack the perception that penetrates the barriers and coverings because we do not practice being daily renewed in the spirit of our mind. The renewing in the spirit of our mind always revolutionizes our logic, philosophy, thought, concept, and psychology. As a result, our perception in all things is different, and we have a deeper understanding of the people we meet. Even by the way they ask questions, we can know people's condition. A natural man is a very shallow man, but if we are spiritual, we will be deep. If we are deep, we will know others, even though they will not be able to know us.

For Young Working Saints

Daniel 6:3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself among the chief ministers and satraps because in him there was an excellent spirit, and the king considered setting him over the whole kingdom.

2 Tim 1:6 For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

God has given you a spirit of power and of love and of sobermindedness. You should exercise your own spirit and call on the Lord's name to fan your spirit into flame. When you want to set a piece of wood on fire, you wave a fan to provide oxygen forcibly to the fire. Then the fire will be flamed up. In the same manner, you need to call on the Lord's name to fan into flame the inner spirit. Especially, exercise your spirit every morning to call on the name of the Lord and to pray-read the Word. And in the daytime during your work, learn to work with the Lord by setting your mind to the spirit. Daniel distinguished himself among the leaders because the distinguishing spirit was in him. Today, this distinguishing spirit is also in you. You need to fan into flame this spirit. Then, you should make this spirit spread into the mind which is yourself. This will happen when you set your mind on the spirit.

Experience ② : Be renewed in the mind, drink one Spirit, in one Body

We need to drink of the one Spirit so that the Spirit can saturate our mind. The renewal of the mind is for the real practice of the new man. The British, the Chinese, and the Americans all have different ordinances related to their culture. This is why we need to have our national mentality renewed. Our national and even natural mentality was educated and built up according to our racial and cultural background. This is the top hindrance to the existence of the new man. Brother Hudson Taylor went to China with a burden to bring the gospel to the Chinese. He was so burdened that he even dressed the way the Chinese did. This was very commendable, but we must go further to see that it is necessary to be renewed in our mentality. Merely to change in and outward way could be a kind of performance and not the renewal in our mind.

We believe that this is the age for the new man to be perfected and to come into existence in a full way. The Lord has arranged the outward environment and situation for the new man to come into being, but the outward situation has to match the inward reality. There is the need of the inward reality in the members of the Body of Christ. Due to the scientific inventions and the political situations on this earth, the many nationalities and cultures have been brought together. Now there is the need of the inward reality, which is the renewal of our mind. Our national, racial mentality, which has been built up through our entire life, must be renewed.

For Junior and Senior High students

1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

You were baptized in one Spirit and into one Body. And you were made to drink one Spirit. Therefore, after you are baptized you need to call on the Lord's name every day, pray-read the Word, and drink the Spirit. In this portion of the Bible, drinking the Spirit and the Body of Christ is stated. The Body of Christ is constituted by the saved people of various countries. By drinking the Spirit, they need to experience the permeation of the Spirit from man's spirit to soul, especially into the mind. Otherwise, it is impossible for Jews and Greeks, Japanese and Chinese, yellow races, white people, and black people to produce the one Body. Each person has grown under the influence of each country's cultural background and family background. Now because you are saved, you need to drink the Spirit and be renewed in your mind.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir has put Japan as the model of the restoration of country. He points out that the Japanese have excellent virtue of diligence. The Japanese are very good at being diligent. The Japanese also pay attention to the details and try to accomplish things perfectly in details. On the other hand, Japanese are not good at grasping things at a bird's-eye view and dynamically changing things from a strategic idea. However Chinese are relatively good at gripping things in a bird's-eye view; but there are also drawbacks that they are overwhelming not into details. Under such circumstances, due to the different ways of capturing things, it is impossible for Japanese and Chinese to become one.

But, praise the Lord. Whether you are Japanese, Chinese, Korean, or African, everyone is drinking one Spirit in one Body. That is, for the building of one new man, your mind with the cultural background is gradually transformed from glory to glory. From when you are in junior high and senior high school, you need to have the vision of one new man, respect the church life, live a life of drinking the Spirit continually with the brothers and sisters, and individually in your school life. In doing so, you can become a person in Christ and be an excellent person to accept people of any different culture (diversity). **2 Cor. 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil (concept coming from cultural background) is taken away. 17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.**