



ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

EPHESIANS 4:22-24

PUT ON THE NEW MAN – EPHESIANS 4:24

God, through the Apostle Paul, calls on us to do an extreme spiritual make over.

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off the old man, . . .
24 put on the new man.

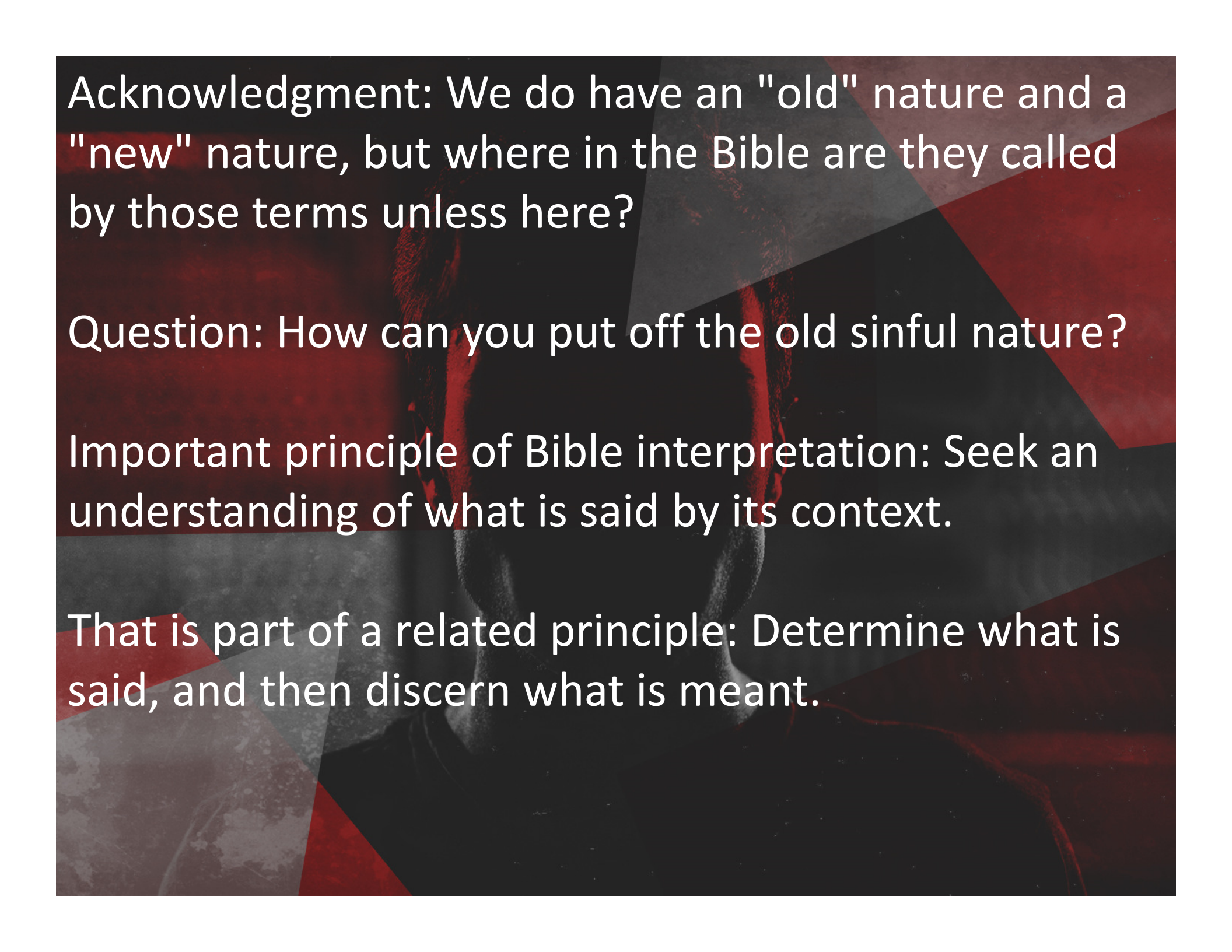
CHALLENGE: Put on the new man

A. Comprehending what the old man is.

Confusion even among Bible scholars. Many will say that the "old man" is our old, corrupt, sinful nature, and the "new man" is the new, redeemed nature believers receive when they trust Christ.

Support: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Other scholars believe there is a better definition of the two.



Acknowledgment: We do have an "old" nature and a "new" nature, but where in the Bible are they called by those terms unless here?

Question: How can you put off the old sinful nature?

Important principle of Bible interpretation: Seek an understanding of what is said by its context.

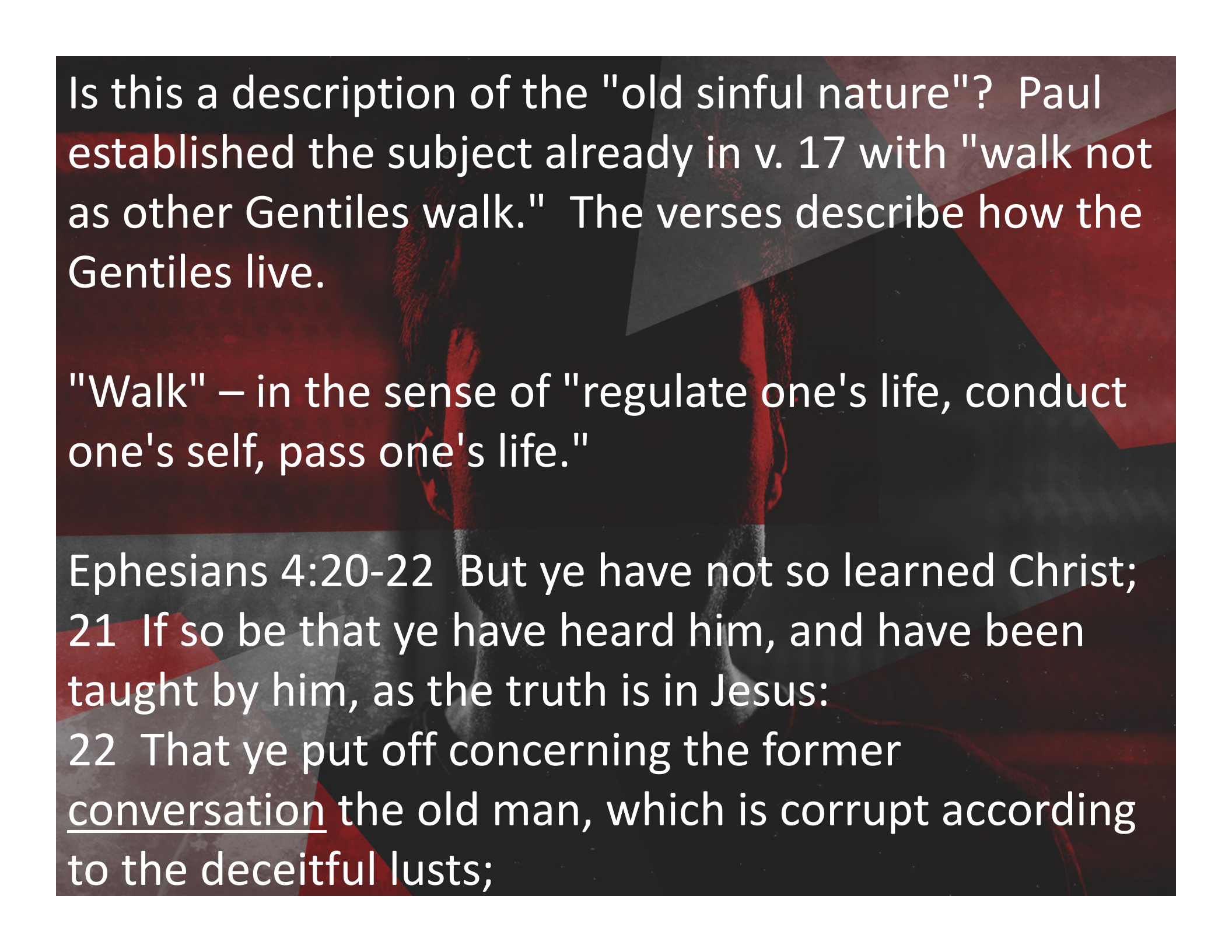
That is part of a related principle: Determine what is said, and then discern what is meant.

Sadly, even Bible scholars sometimes reach a conclusion about one passage of Scripture and use another passage of Scripture from a totally different subject context as a proof text for what they had already concluded.

Ephesians 4:17-19 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.



Is this a description of the "old sinful nature"? Paul established the subject already in v. 17 with "walk not as other Gentiles walk." The verses describe how the Gentiles live.

"Walk" – in the sense of "regulate one's life, conduct one's self, pass one's life."

Ephesians 4:20-22 But ye have not so learned Christ;
21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:
22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

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"Conversation" – manner of life, conduct, behavior, deportment. This is exactly what Paul introduced in v. 17 with the word "walk."

This is precisely what Paul charged us in Rom. 12:2, "and be not conformed to this world, . . ."

So, the "old man" is the way people without God live, the way we are not to live.

B. Comprehending what the new man is, 4:24

Ephesians 5:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

1. "After God" "After" is a preposition the KJV translates 172 different ways, depending upon the sense understood in its context. It is translated "after" or "according to" 167 times out of the 480 times it occurs in the KJV NT. It has the idea of "according to, in accordance with, in conformity with, corresponding to," which I think is what is meant by "after" and "according to" as in v. 22.

So, the "new man" is created "according to, after" God, according to His standard, His guidelines.

Created by whom? Not God. By you. Remember how the context started in v. 17, "walk not." V. 22, "Put off." V. 24, "Put on." These are charges directed to each of us to do.

2. Now see how the following context confirms this concept of the "new man," 4:25-6:20 It all describes aspects of the "new man."
3. This understanding best fits the reality of circumstances too: Just as there is no way that you could get rid of your old sinful nature, there is no way that you could put on a new, righteous nature (a work of the Holy Spirit when you trust Christ for salvation).

C. Renewing the spirit of your mind, 4:23

Ephesians 5:23-24 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

1. You renew your mind, 4:23 Reverse the “vanity of your mind” in 4:17

You need a change of thinking about how you ought to live.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



2. You renew your mind to develop a “new man” (new conduct) in “righteousness” and “true holiness,” 4:24.

Saturate your mind with the Word of God to know what God hates in your life and what God delights to see in your life. Then act upon it.