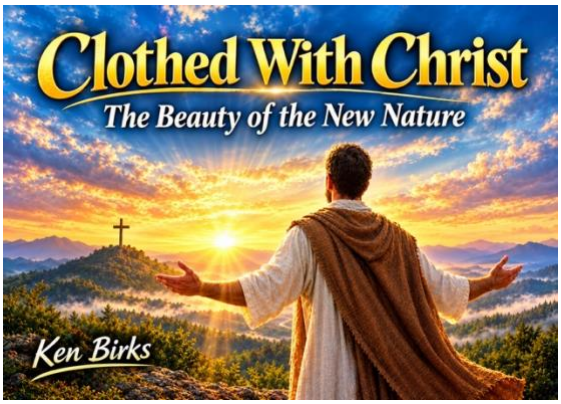
Clothed With Christ
The Beauty of the New Nature

By Ken Birks, Pastor, Bible Teacher, Author



The Christian life is a continual journey of becoming—of learning to live more fully in the new identity Christ has given us. Every believer is called not only to receive salvation but to grow into the fullness of Christ's life within them. This devotional invites us to pause, reflect, and rediscover the wonder of being clothed in the new nature. It is a call to embrace the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, to lay aside the remnants of the old life, and to step boldly into the character, beauty, and power of Christ formed in us..

In today's Christian landscape, many believers long for change but have never been taught how deeply Christ intends to transform them. A diluted version of Christianity often leaves people unchanged, still wrestling with the old nature, unaware that Christ calls us to a life where the old is crucified and the new is powerfully awakened. The gospel does not merely comfort us—it recreates us.

Christ invites us to shed the old garments of the flesh and to be clothed in His character—His humility, His purity, His compassion, His strength. This is not a burden; it is a gift. It is the Spirit's work in us, shaping us into the likeness of Jesus from the inside out. *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*[1]

We must remember that every believer's destiny is nothing less than Christlikeness. God's purpose is not simply to save us from something, but to transform us into Someone. Our journey is one of continual unveiling—seeing Jesus more clearly and becoming more like Him with every step.

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[1] Philippians 2:12-13

2 Corinthians 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

As we look to clothing ourselves in the new nature Christ desires for us, we must first recognize the patterns of our old life He wants us to discard—those habits, sins, and attitudes Christ calls us to lay aside. The old nature that we are to discard expresses itself through things like fornication, uncleanness, uncontrolled passions, evil desires, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, corrupt speech, and lying. These are the garments of the old life, and Christ commands us to strip them off because they no longer belong to who we are in Him.

As followers of Jesus, we are not simply avoiding sin—we are embracing a new way of living. Paul reminds us in his letter to the church at Colosse: *"You have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you."*[2]

This is the heartbeat of spiritual growth: constant renewal. Christ does not simply forgive us—He forms us. He shapes us. He clothes us in His own character. Every step of obedience, every moment of surrender, every act of faith becomes part of His transforming work. Active response to God's will always involves change. Not frantic change, not pressured change, but Spirit-empowered change. The traits we will explore here are not optional virtues—they are the qualities Christ desires to develop in every believer. They grow in us gradually, in varying degrees, but Christ intends to bring them to full maturity.

The new man—the new nature—is created in true righteousness and holiness. This means that as Christ lives in us, His nature becomes visible through us. We begin to think His thoughts, reflect His heart, and walk in His ways. We see this clearly in Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus when he reminds them, *"Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and… put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*[3] This is not self-improvement. This is divine participation. Peter tells us that through God's promises, we become partakers of the divine nature—sharing in the very life of Christ. *"…that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world*

[2] Colossians 3:9–10 (NLT)

[3] Ephesians 4:23–24

through lust[4]." This is our hope. This is our calling. This is the miracle of the new nature—Christ living His life through us.

The provision of the divine nature—the miracle of becoming new through repentance, faith in Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit—is entirely an act of God's sovereignty. He initiates it. He grants it. He breathes it into us by His Spirit. But the application of that divine nature—the nurturing, developing, and maturing of Christlike character—is the sacred responsibility of every believer. God plants the seed; we cultivate the garden.

When we are born again, the seeds of Christ's nature are deposited within us. The Holy Spirit places within us the capacity for holiness, righteousness, compassion, humility, patience, and love. Yet these seeds do not automatically mature. We must tend them, water them, protect them, and intentionally develop them. This is where our partnership with God becomes beautiful. We labor with Him, not for Him. We cooperate with His Spirit as He forms Christ in us.

Scripture is clear: we are to put on the new man. This is an active, ongoing, Spirit-empowered choice. It is the daily decision to align our thoughts, desires, and actions with the new nature Christ has given us. We do by dying to ourselves when we embrace is cross daily

God has already given believers all things that pertain to life and godliness. Positionally, we lack nothing. Every resource of heaven is available to us. But practically, we must take what God has provided and use it for His glory. The new nature is not meant to remain dormant—it is meant to flourish.

Our goal as Christians is deep transformation, lasting, Spirit-driven transformation. The negative characteristics and habit patterns formed in us by our fallen nature are not meant to define us. They are meant to be replaced, reshaped, and renewed by Christlike traits. The new man—the new nature God has created—is meant to come forth in fullness, revealing the life of Christ through us. This is the journey of every believer: To let the old fall away, to let the new rise, and to let Christ be formed in us until His nature becomes our own.

The Christian life is not merely about removing the old nature—it is about joyfully embracing the new one. Paul paints a beautiful picture in Colossians 3:12–15 of what the new nature looks like as it begins to blossom in a believer's life. These

[4] 2 Peter 1:4

traits are not optional virtues; they are the essential garments of those who have been chosen, loved, and set apart by God.

Colossians 3:12–15 *(NLT) Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts… And always be thankful.*

These Christlike characteristics are not simply moral ideals—they are the living expression of the new nature Christ has placed within us. They are the qualities that make Jesus' life visible through His people. When these traits grow in us, they create an atmosphere where God's presence can flow freely and where others can receive the gifts and callings He has placed in our lives.

- Tenderhearted mercy softens our responses.
- Kindness opens doors.
- Humility keeps us grounded.
- Gentleness calms storms.
- Patience gives room for God to work.
- Forgiveness releases healing.
- Love binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- Peace becomes the ruling atmosphere of our hearts.
- Thankfulness keeps us aligned with God's goodness.

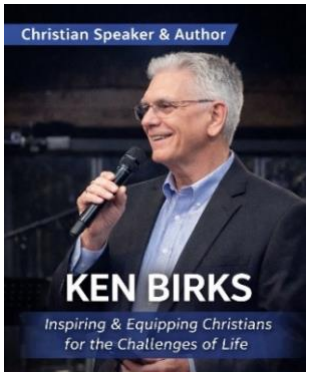
These traits protect us from becoming spiritual "wild tares"—unbalanced, abrasive, or destructive in God's kingdom. Instead, they cultivate maturity, stability, and spiritual beauty. They make us safe people, trustworthy people, people through whom the Holy Spirit can move without hindrance. They are the evidence of the new nature rising within us. They are the fruit of Christ being formed in us. And as they grow, they prepare us to carry God's power with purity, His anointing with integrity, and His calling with Christlike character.

As we journey forward, may we embrace the daily rhythm of putting off the old and putting on the new. Christ has already placed His nature within us; now He invites us to cultivate it with intentionality, surrender, and joy. Let us allow His Spirit to shape us until mercy becomes our instinct, love becomes our language, peace becomes our atmosphere, and Christlikeness becomes our identity. May the new

nature rise in us with increasing glory, until the life of Jesus is unmistakably seen through every word we speak and every step we take.

Here are four strong, discussion-driven questions drawn directly from the heart of your devotional. Each one is crafted to spark reflection, transformation, and meaningful conversation.

About Ken Birks



Ken Birks has walked with God through seasons of quiet wonder, deep refining, and unexpected grace — journeys that have shaped both his faith and voice. From early moments of sensing God's nearness to years of learning to listen more closely, Ken has discovered that the Lord often speaks in whispers, rhythms, and poetic impressions.

Out of those sacred encounters came a desire to write — not to impress, but to invite. To invite others into the same stillness, the same clarity, the same holy encouragement that has carried them through life's valleys and mountaintops. His devotional poetry and other writings flow from a heart that has wrestled, worshiped, and been transformed by God's presence.

Today, Ken writes to help fellow believers pause, breathe, and rediscover the treasures God longs to place within them. Ken's hope is simple: that every reader will feel the Father's nearness, hear His voice more clearly, and walk with renewed courage into the calling He has lovingly prepared.

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