



# Make Room for Season of Change

SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

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## **Ephesians 4:22-24**

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.



# The Onion

(by unknown poet)



**I was an onion before Christ set me free;  
Layers upon layers of iniquity.  
An ugly old onion whose fragrance was strong;  
That my Jesus bought and loved all along.**

**Unknown to me what He was going to do;  
Of what He was planning, I had not a clue.  
Pulling each layer off one by one,  
In order to make me more like Jesus the Son.**

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**The first layer wasn't so bad,  
I saw all the sins that I knew I had.  
They were easy to fix, just change the way I talk,  
And learn more of how He wanted me to walk.**

**Reading His Word, and learning again;  
How to put aside my life of sin.  
But the next layer was pulled which hurt more,  
He was getting closer to the core.**

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**Unknown what He would find there,  
I simply gave it to Him in prayer.  
As another layer was removed, He started to cry;  
Pulling this layer brought pain to my Father on  
High.**

**And I was crying over the sadness I felt;  
The brokenness and all of the guilt.  
Past memories that I thought were gone;  
But they were buried under layers disguised  
in a fragrance so strong.**

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**As onions are peeled more and more,  
They put tears in our eyes as we get close to the  
core;  
So my Father wept over my pain;  
Giving me a balm of comfort and strength to  
sustain.**

**“NO MORE LAYERS!” I would scream,  
As He continued to peel each layer off of me.  
“I will have nothing left, my Lord, what will I do?  
I will be nothing but a worthless core to You.”**

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**But He simply said, "Trust Me," continuing to peel,  
I believed He was blinded to my pain that was so  
real.**

**Year after year I shrunk more and more;  
Until all that was left of this onion was a core.**

**It was then that I began to understand;  
As the Lord embraced me in His loving hand.  
He said, "Now, and only now, can you be;  
The creation that will minister before Me."**

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**“Clothed with the righteousness only from above;  
Gone are your layers of self, so you can  
be filled with My love.”**

**He took my layers of sin, hurt and pain;  
And clothed me with love, truth and mercy  
in His name.**

**Yes, we are all onions, learning with each day;  
How to overcome as each layer is taken away.  
Some layers tear and pull at our heart;  
While others grieve us to our innermost part.**

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**But we are nothing but an ugly onion  
without Christ.**

**Layers upon layers of pride, sin and strife.  
Only God can take those layers away.  
And clothe us with His righteousness  
in that Final Day.**

**P/S: The Wedding of the Lamb has come;  
His bride has made herself ready.  
She was given a bridal gown of bright and shining  
linen.  
The linen is the righteousness of the saints.  
(Rev.19:8)**

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## **(A) Deceitfulness of old self**

Lay aside your former nature [put off and discard your old self] which characterized your previous manner of life, former conversation, become corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion.

## **(B) Newness in the attitude of our minds**

- NKJV and be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- NLV Let your minds and hearts be made new
- NLT Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!**

# Comparison between old and new nature



## Old

## New

Old life - New life

Dead in sin - Alive in Christ

Old man - Born again

Separated from God - Reconciled to God thru Christ



What breaks your heart is part of  
a divine design to bring change!

Andy Stanley

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**(C) Christlikeness –  
new self in true righteousness and holiness  
(right living / true living – all for God’s glory)**

**Psalm 23:3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the  
paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.**

**Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is  
revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: “But the  
righteous one will live by faith.”**

## Lifestyle between old and new nature (Ephesians 4:25-32)



Old

New

Falsehood - Truth

Anger - Peace

Theft - Generosity

Gossip - Encouragement

Revenge - Forgiveness

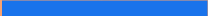
Promiscuity - Self-control

Drunkenness - God's Spirit

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**In the New Testament the hero of faith with the tremendous change from the old to new nature... great transformation**

- Saul, the persecutor to Paul, the preacher and epistles writer.
- Philippians 3:7-10
- “I am not who I want to be,  
but thank God I am not who I used to be.”



Spiritual maturity is measured  
in terms of persevering faith,  
**not perfect behavior.**

Andy Stanley

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# Make Room for Season of Change

- From *'I hope to change'* to *'I want to change'*
- Conviction: 'I need to change' and 'I choose to change'
- Through faith by God's ever sufficient grace and power of His Spirit, **'I will change and I can change!'** AMEN & AMEN