

Walk this way!

(Agreeing with God's truth: Replacing & Realigning)

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NLT)

Living as Children of Light

With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused.

Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame.

They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity. But that isn't what you learned about Christ.

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

1. Jesus is serious about our freedom!! Are we?

Freedom in Christ

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

We need to be passionate and intentional about remaining free.

Why does repentance seem ineffective at times?

There is a genuine danger that the 5 Rs become a formula and we become 'religious' in using them.

We love to cling to methods and techniques to make ourselves feel better. The 5 Rs are not about that.

Jesus revealed that everything is about our 'relationship' with God and the Spirit.

Repentance isn't just a 'little prayer blessing time' to make me feel better – we've got to love God and therefore hate sin.

Matthew 3:8 (NIV)

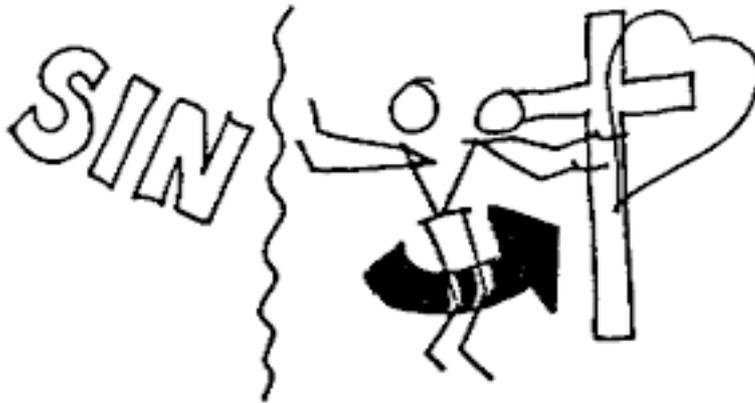
Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

2. Repentance is a 2-way motion...

If we are turning away from sin, we must be turning towards something!

What are you turning towards?

What 'Truth' do you need to turn to and make your own?



A change in direction

Given that we are constantly having thoughts, emotional reactions and making decisions, the space for replacing may not remain clear for long. If the ground is left empty, 'weeds' will grow or and our freedom will be contested.

A change in direction is needed whereby we 'fill up' on truth in the mind and the heart. In this way we overcome the habits we have developed over time that re-enforce the lies we used to believe. **We don't do this on our own, God is with us and for us, but we have to do our part.**

Living by the Spirit's Power:

Galatians 5:16 (NLT)

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

3. God wants us to be full

The Greek words for mature, perfect, full, complete and whole all come from the same root, to be mature is to be filled with the fullness of God.

Sin empties us of the life, the love, the power and the truth, which God designed us to be filled with. When we've rooted out the sin, it is essential that we replace it and become full.

If we do not replace with truth

Jesus warns us of the danger of rebuking the enemy without significant change in direction.

Matthew 12:43-45 (NLT)

When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. Then it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation.

When we demolish a stronghold through freedom prayer we need to build something in its place.

Walking in freedom is an active and even aggressive lifestyle whereby we 'fill up' on truth in the mind and the heart and live out that truth through decisions of the will. In this way we break the power of the lie and expose it for what it is – a deception, an untruth that has no reality now we are in Christ

John 8:32 (NIV)

Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

4. Walking in the opposite spirit – Walk this way!

Replacing doesn't mean doing things slightly differently or trying harder. We need to learn how to intentionally and radically turn around and walk in the other direction. We call this 'walking in the opposite spirit'. For example in situations when we would have been selfish or mean spirited, we consciously choose to be generous.

Jesus teaches us through Paul how to walk in the opposite spirit.

Living as Children of Light....

Ephesians 4:28-29 (NLT)

If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

What is replacing?

Replacing is the journey of making the truth and our new position of freedom into a lifestyle so that it becomes natural for us. It's about immediate steps and developing a healthy and strong relationship with our Father God.

What is realigning?

Having broken agreement with lies we have believed...
and strongholds built in our lives...
and experienced God's work of releasing us into freedom...
we have to deliberately realign ourselves with truth.

Realigning is about making a new agreement with the truth of who God is and who he says we are. It's declaring the truth about our freedom and how he made us - our original design.

We need to replace in:

- A. The conscience
- B. The mind
- C. The imagination
- D. The will

The emotions then follow

5. Replacing in the areas of the mind and the heart

- **The mind:**

The mind thinks in words and numbers; (rational, sequential, straight line, logical, things that can be written down).

Therefore we allow God to 'renew our minds' by filling them with truth and good thoughts, whilst taking captive every thought that takes us back to old patterns.

This process is an active choice – the engagement of the will.

Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. **Fix your thoughts** on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

- **The heart**

The heart relates to our imagination and emotions.

- **Imagination**

The imagination is the cinema of the heart. The images in our hearts determine our destiny. The vision and images we carry and rehearse inside us determine how we live our life and therefore who we become.

For the most part, it's the imagery in our hearts that influence our motives and reactions, rather than the logical truth we believe.

We need to feed our imagination with healthy images and symbols that align with God's truth and move us on in our original design.

- **Emotions**

Emotions follow the mind and the imagination. They are God-created and valid because they signal what's happening in our hearts, but we don't follow them wherever they take us.

Throughout the Psalms (and other scriptures) we see God's people expressing raw emotions honestly and then through praise and worship moving beyond them into truth and trust.

We don't grow in freedom by denying our emotions, but by honestly facing them and taking them to God for his help in revealing the root causes and dealing with them.

We don't replace emotions – we replace thoughts, reactions, choices, decisions, etc. and our emotions will catch up!

6. Developing a lifestyle of freedom

- **The Power of Agreement**

What we believe matters!

When we come into agreement with a lie we give the devil authority over that particular area of our lives

When we repent of believing that lie and the sin that followed and realign with the truth, we come back under the authority of God.

We must receive the Word, believe it to be true, come into agreement with it and then apply it to our lives.

The Word of God, no matter how faithfully we read it, can have little effect in our lives unless we accept it, agree with it and let it become our truth.

We recalibrate our thinking by realigning with the truth.

Mark 3:25 (NIV)

If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

- **The Power of Confession and Declaration**

What we say matters!

Romans 10:9 (NIV)

...that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be **saved**..

The word '**confess**' in Greek is **homologeó**:

it means to speak the same, **to agree**

-to voice the same conclusion, full agreement; to align with.

The word '**saved**' in Greek is **sozo**.

To save, deliver or protect, to heal, preserve, do well, make whole.

Confessing the truths of the bible and declaring the promises of God can bring us into full agreement and alignment and hold the power to heal, preserve and make us whole!

FREEDOM!!

7. We need to learn to agree with God – in every part of our person

Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God.

It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, nourishment of mind by His truth, purifying of imagination by His beauty, opening of the heart to His love, and submission of will to His purpose. And all this gathered up in adoration is the greatest of human expressions of which we are capable.

Archbishop William Temple

The process of replacing is an act of **worship**, focusing our lives on serving, honouring and trusting God. We replace rebellion with **worship**.

- We become like who we Worship
- We become like what we Behold

Putting on the armour daily

Ephesians 6:11-12 (NIV)

Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

How we strengthen our relationship with the truth!

John 14:6 (NLT)

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Actively enhancing our time, talk and touch with our Father.
Here are just some examples of how we can do this:

- Reading and digesting His word
- Personal worship and alone time with God
- Soaking and dreaming with God
- Hearing God's revelation (for yourself and others)
- Talking with God/Prayer
- Fasting - which can help us focus and open the channels for hearing revelation
- Taking faith risks

8. The support of church community

Covenant relationships – running partners – accountability

Our church network can be hugely supportive of our replacing old ways and encouraging us in our new steps in releasing us to live fully in our original design:

- **Your personal testimony.** What lenses are you looking through?
- Serving others, ministry
- Small group (Celebrate Recovery, Women's Group, homegroups)
- Interceding, standing with those who ask for prayer.

An exercise:

Use the stronghold of **insignificance** to think about what walking in the opposite spirit would look like. Use the table below to contrast the old and new patterns for the mind and heart:

Old	New
Thoughts	
Vision/Images	
Emotions/feelings	
Behaviours	

Questions to consider

1. What image do you have of yourself?
2. List what God has done in you life. Your testimony!

i.e.

- Relationships restored
- Sins forgiven
- Addictions broken
- Healings
- Vision

Thank you Jesus. You are the lenses through which I see my life.

3. Since your stronghold prayer appointment have you actively 'Walked in the opposite spirit'? If so how?
4. Ask God for a scripture (a truth) that you need to confess and declare.
5. List other ways you can replace and realign. (Recalibrate!)