



“Put on Christ”

Romans 13:13-14 NKJV - Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. [14] **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Introduction: The struggle of putting on Christ

Many things are preventing us from putting on Christ in our lives. That's why Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us to lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.” **There can be layers in our lives- sin, wounds, distractions, unhealthy attachments, fear, pride, disappointment, and accumulated experiences- that hinder our responsiveness to God.** Spiritual growth involves allowing God to expose and remove what weighs us down so that Christ increasingly shapes our lives.

We experience a lot

Every day, something enters our lives through what we see, hear, touch, feel, carry, and experience. Some experiences strengthen us; others can leave wounds, fears, assumptions, or spiritual heaviness behind.

1. **WE SEE A LOT:** What we continually look at can influence our thoughts, desires, and spiritual focus. **Psalm 101:3 - I will set nothing wicked before my eyes.** Job 31:1 NKJV: "I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman? Job 31:1. Your eyes are not merely observing; they are also receiving.
2. **WE HEAR A LOT:** Words can encourage, discourage, heal, deceive, strengthen, or wound. Jesus therefore taught His disciples to pay attention to what they receive.

"Take heed what you hear." - Mark 4:24 Romans 10:17; **Romans 10:17 NKJV** - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Words can encourage, discourage, heal, deceive, strengthen, or wound. Jesus therefore taught His disciples to pay attention to what they receive.

3. **WE TOUCH AND ENCOUNTER A LOT:** We interact with people, environments, responsibilities, conflict, success, rejection, disappointment, and temptation. **1 Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJV** Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." [34] Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. Our relationships and surroundings can influence us.
4. **WE FEEL AND CARRY A LOT:** We experience joy and sorrow, acceptance and rejection, confidence and fear. Scripture does not teach us to deny our emotions; it teaches us to bring our cares to God. 1 Peter 5:7: "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." - **Matthew 11:28 NKJV** Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Some layers can hinder us from putting on Christ

There are layers of things that can prevent us from experiencing the fullness of God. **Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV** - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1 distinguishes between every weight and sin. Not every weight is necessarily sinful, but **anything that continually slows our obedience, focus, freedom, or spiritual growth deserves examination.**

1. **LAYER 1 - SIN** - Unconfessed and protected sin disrupts fellowship with God.
God's response is not concealment but repentance, confession, and cleansing.
God is calling us to "REPENT"
2. **LAYER 2 - UNFORGIVENESS** - An offence may have happened yesterday, but unforgiveness allows it to continue shaping today's heart. Forgiveness does not call evil good; it releases personal vengeance and places justice in God's hands.
God is calling us to "FORGIVE"
3. **LAYER 3- WOUNDS AND DISAPPOINTMENT** - Pain can become a lens through which we interpret God, people, ministry, and ourselves. God draws near to the brokenhearted and invites us to bring our wounds into His presence. **God is calling us for "HEALING"**
4. **LAYER 4 - FEAR** - Fear can make us withdraw when God is calling us forward. Biblical courage is not the absence of difficulty; it is confidence in God's presence and faithfulness. **God is calling us to "TRUST HIM"**
5. **LAYER 5- PRIDE AND SELF-DEPENDENCE** - Pride makes the self the center. Humility recognizes our dependence on God and remains teachable before Him.
God is calling us to "HUMBLE OURSELVES"

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." – 2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

**SONG: JUST ANOTHER, ANOTHER, ANOTHER, ANOTHER
TOUCH OF YOUR HAND
WE NEED ANOTHER, ANOTHER, ANOTHER, ANOTHER
TOUCH OF YOUR HAND**