All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Time for A Change of Clothes.**

1. Welcome
2. Prayer requests/Prayer
3. News/Updates

Getting dressed in the morning can be daunting! Trying to put together a look that is comfortable, yet still professional or pulled together may be easier for some of us than others. For the rest of us there are days we may find ourselves staring blankly into our crowded closet without seeing a single thing to wear. Or, there are those harried mornings of trying on two or three outfits before settling on something that still doesn’t feel quite right.

Have you ever been tempted to think it would be easier to wear the same thing that felt *just right* yesterday, and maybe every day? Imagine wearing the same clothes day after day after day!

Did you know we are admonished by scripture to “put off” and “put on” certain things in which we are *clothed* spiritually?

What are some things we are told to “put off?”

- Romans 13:11-14

- Ephesians 4:17-32

- Colossians 3:1-17

In contrast, in these same verses we are told things we need to be “clothed” in, or to “put on.”

- What clothes do you feel the most comfortable in? What makes them seem comfortable to you?

Most of us probably do not feel comfortable in stilettos and women’s business attire! In fact, when, or if, we ever do dress up, we most likely cannot wait to get out of those clothes into something more comfortable. And, it’s unlikely any of us feel comfortable in grimy, stinky work clothes for very long after the job’s done.
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Time for A Change of Clothes.

- Which type of clothes do the verses above most identify with: dress up or work clothes?

Let’s look at the “put on” verses in the same scriptures above. What are we to be clothed in once we get out of those old ones?

- Romans 13:11-14

- Ephesians 4:17-32

- Colossians 3:1-17

Can you identify with Jesus and His character in relation to comfortable clothes? The truth is that by making Jesus your Lord and Savior, you have taken the first step in becoming intimate and comfortable with Him. Not, as in taking Him for granted; but as in growing in a love relationship with Him that begins to affect change in you. As you know Him more and more, you begin to become more like Him.

- Who would you say you are most like? Your mother? Your father? Your husband? A friend?

- In what ways are you like them?

- How did you come to share similar traits with them?

Read John 15:4 and fill in the blank: “______________ in me and I in you.” (NKJV)

Most translations use the word remain, but the seldom used word abide is packed with meaning. To abide means “to remain, to continue to be present, to be held, to endure, to remain as one.” In a world where people stay connected with one another very long, where commitments are easily broken, and intimacy is replaced with quick, meaningless “hook-ups,” the idea of putting on an abiding love relationship with Jesus Christ can seem kind of foreign! But like any relationship that causes us to become like another person, it develops over time and out of a daily, deliberate act of our will. We choose to “put off” the old nature and “put on” the new nature. And, as we do it day after day after day we begin to prefer the new to the old.

Have you ever had to finally and grudgingly part with some favorite piece of clothing? Maybe you put it aside in the back of the closet thinking you just might want to wear it again sometime. If that day ever came when you pulled it out, put it back on with fond memories of how you felt in it, did you look in the mirror and think, “Why in the world did I ever love this so much!?!?”
Time for A Change of Clothes.

Sometimes, we find ourselves drawing back to old habits and old behavior. But, if we really have spent time abiding with the one we love the most, Jesus, those old ways will be disappointing and disgusting to us.

- Since receiving Jesus, can you identify some things you have “put off” that you occasionally find yourself trying on again?
- What do you think draws you back to them?
- What can you do to replace them with the clothing mentioned in our scriptures?

Praying the Word of God is one way to replace our old stinky, ratty nature with the new nature we have in Jesus Christ. Let’s choose one “put off” attribute and practice praying the “put on” scriptures that would help us grow in relationship with Him. The concordance in the back of your Bible can be a great source of finding scriptures to pray, but here are a few examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Put Off</th>
<th>Scriptures</th>
<th>Put On</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of love</td>
<td>1 John 4:7-10 ; John 15:12</td>
<td>Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judging</td>
<td>Mt 7:1-2 ; John 8:9 ; John 15:22</td>
<td>Let God search my heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitterness</td>
<td>Heb 12:15 ; Eph 4:32</td>
<td>Tenderhearted &amp; forgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selfishness</td>
<td>Phil 2:21 ; John 12:24</td>
<td>Self denial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pride</td>
<td>Prv 16:5 ; James 4:6</td>
<td>Humility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stubbornness</td>
<td>1 Sam 15:23 ; Rom 6:13</td>
<td>Brokenness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murmuring/Complaining</td>
<td>Phil 2:14 ; Heb 13:15</td>
<td>Praise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irritation toward others</td>
<td>Gal 5:26 ; Phil 2:3-4</td>
<td>Preferring in love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>Prv 29:22 ; Gal 5:22-23</td>
<td>Self-control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gossip</td>
<td>1 Tim 5:13 ; Eph 4:29</td>
<td>Edifying speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical spirit</td>
<td>Gal 5:15 ; Col 3:12</td>
<td>Kindness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profanity</td>
<td>Prv 4:24 ; Prv 15:4</td>
<td>Pure speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idle words</td>
<td>Mt 12:36 ; Prv 21:23</td>
<td>Bridle tongue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laziness</td>
<td>Prv 20:4 ; Prv 6:6-11</td>
<td>Diligence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your prayer might be something like this:

**Father, You have said that when trouble comes my way I should consider it an opportunity for great joy. I choose to see my situation through Your eyes and by faith consider it a joy to wait instead of rushing ahead. Help me to have patience as I go through this walking out of my faith. I know that my faith is being tested, Lord. Please help me to endure. I want my faith to grow because I truly do want to become mature and complete in You. God, You have said that patient endurance is what I need so that I will continue to do Your will and receive what You have promised, so I submit to Your will and Your timing in my situation. Thank You for Your faithfulness to help me put on patience. Amen!**

**Scriptures to meditate on & study:**