

New and Exciting!

by *Karen Maio*

It's that time of year again-fresh boxes of sharp crayons, pages and pages of clean, empty notebooks waiting to be filled, the latest pop culture character emblazoned on backpacks and t-shirts. School is back in session! There are new supplies, perhaps a new teacher, and in my son's case-a new school with new friends. Such an exciting time!



Sigh. So, why do I feel a little like the post-Christmas (or wedding, party, performance) "blahs"? The only new thing on my plate is a construction-riddled school route during peak traffic time. Ugh! Time to turn to the Word!

What does God have to say to me? A search of the word "new" had this passage speaking to my heart: "...put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24

"Put off...put on". Here God is telling us to actively change our actions and our behavior, just like we change our clothes. It's similar to how we act and feel more professional when we don a business suit rather than our old comfy jeans or sweats. When we change our conduct, our attitude will start to change, as well. We will think and act more Christ-like. We can do it only with the Holy Spirit's help. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

We sometimes refer to our "old self" as the "old Adam", that is our sinful human nature. This isn't something we put off for a little while, but rather, in Christ, our old Adam dies, or back to our clothing analogy, we don't take it off and hang it in the closet; we take it out back and burn it!

That means we get new clothes! We put on the new self, which is the way God created us to be-holy and righteous. He made us in his holy image, but we lost it through sin. Jesus was crucified for those sins and now, through faith in him as our Savior, his righteousness becomes our new clothing! Out of love for everything our Savior has done for us and our salvation, we want to change and put on the new self!

The fourth chapter of Ephesians continues listing some of the ways God wants us to act-Don't lie, gossip, slander, fight, steal, or be angry, bitter, or vulgar. Rather, we are to be truthful, kind, compassionate, and forgiving, and make yourself useful so you can give to others---just like Jesus!

It's amazing how being in the Word can chase any "blahs" away. God has pointed out that I do have something new. I have a whole new self! How exciting!



Season: End of summer/Pentecost

Video: 4. Gossip...Who Me?

Devotions: 1. In Your Hands, Lord

55. Finding God's Plan

144. Covered

157. Forgiveness

200. Actively Waiting

Prayer: 50. Again, Lord, I was blessed when I entered your house...

Super Girl: 82. I just watched a Stephen Colbert clip. I can't help it...

Scripture References: Genesis 1:26, 27; Genesis 5:1; Luke 1:75; Romans 6:4; Romans 7:6; Romans 12:2; Romans 13:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15

PERMISSIONS POLICY

A WORD for Women is the sole owner of all content on this website. Please read our policy for use of our material.

No Permission Needed

Please feel free to link to this site.

Re-posting is allowed when using partial content of material with a link to this website

Please use our content in non-profit publications such as church newsletters, bulletins, bible studies and bible conferences. It must have this copyright notice: "Used by permission from www.awordforwomen.com".

Permission Needed

You need written consent to:

Use for commercial, for-profit purposes

Alter or change any content

Repost content in its entirety

Dig Deeper

Dig Deeper is a cross-reference section for every devotion. To use this feature, reference the numbers next to the titles starting on the Archive Page of our website: www.awordforwomen.com/archives

Or you can use the search bars in the website.

A WORD for Women is a ministry of © 2016 by Salty Earth Pictures - 36 S 3rd St W, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Contact Us: info@awordforwomen.com

Website: www.awordforwomen.com

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.