Laying Aside the Old Self, Putting on the New Self

... in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (Ephesians 4:22-24 NASB).

1. Since Christians are often encouraged to evaluate their love relationship with Jesus at the beginning of a new year, pray that those in your community will do so by first laying aside their sinfully corrupted attitudes and then putting on the righteousness of Jesus (Ephesians 4:22-24).

2. Since God is love, pray that your church family will lay aside any attitudes and actions that fail to reflect God’s loving character. Pray that they will then demonstrate the selfless love of Jesus as they serve God and minister to others (1 John 4:7-8).

3. When things are not going well in our churches or nation, it is easy for us to become inappropriately judgmental of others. Pray that as Christians we will quickly lay aside our haughty, judgmental thoughts and allow God to reveal to us the logs of sin in our own lives (Matthew 7:1-5).

4. Pray that the believers in your church family who have been hurt by others will not become bitter but will be tender-hearted, willing to forgive those who have offended them. Pray that they will forgive others just like Christ has forgiven them (Hebrews 12:15; Ephesians 4:32).

5. Pray that the members of your church family will demonstrate self-denial by no longer seeking after their own interests, but those of Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:21).

6. Knowing that God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble, pray that every person in your family will lay down pride and pick up the practice of walking humbly before God and others (Proverbs 16:5; James 4:6).

7. Pray that your Christian friends will “do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind” will regard others as more important than themselves (Philippians 2:3).

8. Since rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, pray that your church family will repent of any sinful ways and submit their daily lives and future plans to the will of God (1 Samuel 15:23; Romans 6:13).

9. Pray that Christians across the country will lay down any attitudes or actions that are disrespectful toward their leaders and will demonstrate respect and honor to the authorities God has placed in their lives (Romans 13:1; Hebrews 13:17).

10. Knowing that God uses trials to test the faith of His children, pray that impatience will be set aside, and with endurance every person will trust God to continue working in their lives in order to make them “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4).

11. With people becoming even more ungrateful during the last days, pray that every believer you know will learn to always give thanks for all things as they practice gratitude on a daily basis (2 Timothy 3:2; Ephesians 5:20).

12. Pray that every American believer will lay aside greed and the love of money, understanding that even when one has an abundance, his or her true life is so much more than simply owning possessions (Luke 12:15; Hebrews 13:5).

13. Pray your church family will learn to trust God with every financial circumstance they face and will be content with what they have (Hebrews 13:5). Pray that they will avoid “foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction” (1 Timothy 6:8-9).

14. Pray that the members of your church family will “not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:26). Also, pray that they will “do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than” themselves (Philippians 2:3).
Pray that your church family will not be contentious as they serve God together, but will instead demonstrate the kind of love for one another that “is not provoked” and “does not take into account a wrong suffered” (1 Corinthians 13:5). For those around you who have been mentally, emotionally, or physically wounded by another, pray that they will not want to seek revenge, but will “leave room for the wrath of God,” trusting Him to accomplish what is good and just in the lives of others (Proverbs 24:29; Romans 12:19).

Pray that all the members of your church family will be slow to anger in their dealings with others (Proverbs 16:32). Pray that they will trust God to give them great control over their own spirits (Proverbs 25:28).

Knowing that “an angry man stirs up strife, and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression” (Proverbs 29:22), pray that every person you know who struggles with anger will repent and submit to Christ in order to have the kind of self-control that comes from walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Since “the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God,” pray that those who are quick to express their thoughts with loud, angry outbursts toward others will become “quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger” (James 1:19-20).

In conversing with one another, pray that your church family will lay down harsh words that stir up anger, and instead use gentle answers that turn away wrath (Proverbs 15:1).

Pray that Christians will not let unwholesome words proceed from their mouths, but only words that are good for the edification of those who are listening (Ephesians 4:29).

Instead of having a critical attitude toward others, pray that your church family will put on “a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone” (Colossians 3:12-13).

Regardless of age or the circumstances of their lives, pray that Christians will understand the importance of not lying to one another. Pray that they will always lay down falsehood and “speak the truth to one another” in love (Zechariah 8:16).

Pray that Christians in your community will lay aside profanity and will be careful never to take God’s name in vain (Exodus 20:7). Pray that believers instead will always “worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling” (Psalm 2:11).

Knowing that during the day of judgment we will have to give an accounting for every careless or useless word we have spoken, pray that our speech as believers always will always edify others and bring God great glory (Matthew 12:36-37).

Knowing that Jesus will someday come again “in the glory of His Father with the holy angels,” pray that even now, while living in an adulterous and sinful generation, the members of your church family will not be ashamed to declare that Jesus is Lord (Mark 8:38).

Pray that Christians will not evaluate other believers simply on the basis of outward appearances. Pray that, like God, we will learn to look at individuals’ hearts, seeking to discern and understand their reasonings and motivations (1 Samuel 16:7).

With the things that defile a man coming from within his own heart—evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and slander—pray that fellow believers will lay these things aside and have their hearts changed by the ongoing “washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 15:19-20; Titus 3:5).

Pray that those who have become lazy in their relationship with God will repent and return to a wise walk of diligence in seeking to personally know and serve Him (Proverbs 6:6-11).

Pray that those who have left their first love for Christ will remember from where they have fallen, repent, and do the deeds they did at first out of love for Jesus (Revelation 2:4-5).

Please pray that those within your church family who have become lukewarm or complacent in their walk with Christ will repent and become zealous in seeking, knowing, and obeying God (Revelation 3:16, 19).