Ephesians 4:23-32

Ephesians 4:23 – “and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds”

1. Between:
   a. 4:22 – put off the old self, and
   b. 4:24 – put on the new self is
   c. 4:23 – “be renewed in the spirit of your minds”
2. 4:22 and 4:24 (“put off the old” and “put on the new”) are aorist infinitives which speak of complete and a whole process. But, 4:23, “be renewed in the spirit of your minds” is present infinitive which speaks of an ongoing process.
3. This is a contrasting POSITIVE statement about the believer who formerly was an unbeliever in a continuous state of undoing or progressive deterioration.
4. The believer is now in a state of perpetual renewal/renovation of the MIND and SPIRIT, or literally “in the spirit of your minds”, which is speaking about the SOUL and the second phase of salvation…the present sanctification, the renewal of the mind
5. “to be made new” – ananeousthai – refers to restoration back to the image of God or recreation into the image of God.
6. This is the reorientation of their world view as the NIV says, “to be made new in the attitude of your minds.”
7. Romans 12:2 – “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”
8. 2 Corinthians 3:18 – “from one degree of glory to another”
9. 2 Corinthians 4:16 – the inner man is being continually renewed day by day
10. Paul’s use of the phrase “the spirit of your mind” is not found anywhere else in ancient Greek literature or in the NT.
   a. Some would say “the spirit” is the Holy Spirit doing work in your mind. This is supported by the fact that:
      i. when spirit is mentioned in Ephesians it is talking about the Holy Spirit.
         (1:17;3:16; 4:3; 5:18; 6:18)
      ii. This chapter begins talking about the unity of the Spirit (4:3)
   b. But, this is clearly saying “the spirit of YOUR minds” which would not be “the Holy Spirit of your minds” and Paul is clearly not saying “renew your mind by the Holy Spirit”.
   c. “the spirit of your mind” is likely a reference to the inmost part of the man…the soul. The mind, the spirit, the soul are interlinked and can be impacted with information or teaching. The information received could be true or it could be false. But, the information received by the mind will have an impact on the soul and the spirit.
   d. The renewing work in the human mind/soul/spirit is done by the Holy Spirit (God) using the Word (Truth):
      i. Ephesians 5:26 – “that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word”
ii. Titus 3:5 – “by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (read 3:3-7)

iii. John 15:3 – “You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”

iv. John 17:17 – “Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.”

v. 2 Corinthians 3:18 – “we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

vi. 2 Corinthians 4:16 – “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.”

Ephesians 4:24 – “and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.


καί ενδύσασθαι τὸν καινὸν ἄνθρωπον τὸν κατὰ τὸν Θεὸν

and to have put on the new man according to God

1. “καί”, translated “and” or “therefore” connects the principle of the knowledge and the renewed mind with the application which is practice and production of the god-kind of life.

2. “put on” indicates that the changes made by God need to be implemented by the believer. There is a combination of the work of the Lord with the work of the believer. God has done his work and the believer has learned the truth revealed by the Holy Spirit, NOW the believer must begin to choose to live in this power (while being empowered to do so by the Holy Spirit.

3. The born again person is NOT to go spiritually limp and expect God to put up with their personal tendencies and sins. This verse does not teach “GOD WILL PUT UP WITH”, but instead teaches “YOU MUST PUT ON the righteousness and holiness of TRUTH”

4. The born again person is now created to be like God in righteousness and holiness.
   a. “created” is passive which means God created the NEW man
   b. The new man is created as a model of God character himself (All God’s works are perfect – Psalm 145:17; Rev. 16:5; Deut. 32:4)
   c. “according to God” means the new man is created like God with the intention of the old man coming in line with the newly created man.
   d. The work is done (phase one), but yet, the work has just started (phase two) for the newly born again man.

5. “of Truth” indicates the source of this new creation and the direction of the target. The creation, the righteousness, the holiness, even God himself, is a revelation and empowerment “of Truth”
THE SPECIFIC GOALS of PHASE TWO: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

1. Put away falsehood
2. Speak truth
3. Be angry and do not sin
   a. resolve issues that create anger
   b. do not let Satan use the rebellion of the cosmos to draw you into his system!
4. Do not steal
5. Work
   a. Honest work (means “to work with effort, to labor, to grow weary”)
   b. Productive
   c. Give and Share with those in need
      i. Those "in need" ARE NOT those who will not labor, honest work, productive work, or will not help the needy themselves. These type of people are to be left to starve as Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 3:10
      ii. The readers have already been told repeatedly to not be deceived and there are men constantly presenting the readers with deceitful schemes. These ARE NOT the needy. These are the deceitful. You have no mandate to help these people. Later Paul tells them to expose them. Ephesians 5:11 – “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”
6. No corrupt talk (“corrupt” means “rank, foul, putrid, rotten, worthless, disgusting”)
7. Say what is good:
   a. for building up
   b. fits the occasion, that it may
   c. give grace to those who hear – “grace” as is used here with this verb means “to confer a favor, to give pleasure or profit.” Indicating that your words will be a benefit to those who are listening.
8. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit who is ultimately taking you to the completion of you salvation (phase three: physical resurrection and glorification for eternity)
9. Put away (“be put away from you”):
   a. bitterness – “a fretted and irritable state of mind that keeps a man in perpetual animosity”. It “inclines him to harsh and uncharitable opinions of men and things” making him sour, crabby and repulsive.
   b. wrath –
   c. anger -
   d. clamor – outcry, shouting in strife. An outward manifestation of the inner wrath and anger.
   e. slander – speaking evil of someone. Another outward manifestation of the inner wrath and anger
   f. malice – meaning badness speaking generally of the badheartedness which is the root of this list of bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander.
10. Be:
    a. kind to one another,
    b. tenderhearted,
    c. forgiving one another
(Definitions above from “The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament” by Rogers and Rogers)
Ephesians 4:25 – “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:26 – “Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

Ephesians 4:27 – “and give no opportunity to the devil.
Ephesians 4:28 – “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Ephesians 4:29 – “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who
Ephesians 4:30 – “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

29 Πάς λόγος σαπρὸς ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν μὴ
Any word unwholesome out of the mouth of you not

ekporeuesthō alla ei tis agathos pros oikodomēn tēs chreias
let go forth but if any good for edification of the need

2443 [e] 1325 [e] 5485 [e] 3588 [e] 191 [e]
hina dō charin tois akouousin
so that it may give grace to those hearing

Kai mē lypeite to Pneuma to Hagion tou Theou en
And not grieve the Spirit - Holy - of God in

3730 [e] 4972 [e] 1519 [e] 2250 [e] 629 [e]
hō esphragisthēte eis hēmeran apolytrōseōs
whom you were sealed for [the] day of redemption

Ephesians 4:31 – “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.