



A. By not following my flesh. Those who follow after things of the flesh are blinded. **Eph. 4:17-18** *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, [18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:”*

1. We are to put off the works of the flesh **Eph. 4: 22, 31** *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; [31] Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”*

2. We are to be renewed in our thinking. **Eph. 4:23** *“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;”*

3. We are to put on the new man. **Eph. 4:24** *“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

B. By not joining myself to things that will limit my ability to get close to God.

1. The prodigal son chose to be close to the far country, which separated him from his father.

**Lk. 15:15** *“And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.”*

2. I must separate from those things and people that will keep me from being able to be close to God.

a. Fleshly desires. **II Tim. 2:22** *“Flee also youthful lusts...”*

b. Friends who will hinder me. **Gal. 5:7** *“Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”*

3. I cannot be a friend of God and a friend of the world. **James 4:4** *“...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

C. By joining myself with things that will make me closer to God.

1. Church – **Heb. 10:25** – *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”*

2. Bible reading – **Eph. 5:26** *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”*

3. Godly friends – **Prov. 17:17** *“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”*

4. By obeying Gods Word. – **Ps. 119:9** *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”*

**Close: Ps. 1**

- The only two choices a person has is to choose to be separated from God or to be separated from the world.
- Everyone separates, who will you choose to be close to?

**II Cor. 6:17**

*“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”*