

Reaching Unlimited Spiritual Heights by Changing Our Actions

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Key Text: Colossians 3:5–17 (NASB 1995)

Supporting Texts: Romans 7:14–25; Matthew 11:28–30; Matthew 14:13; Luke 17:11–19; John 8:50; Luke 23:34; John 13:1; Psalm 119:11, 97

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUpIJWGPuE0>

Introduction

- Many Christians struggle with the same sins again and again.
- We pray, feel guilty, promise to change—and then fall back into the same patterns.
- Paul understood this struggle. He described the battle between the flesh and the spirit in Romans 7.
- In Colossians 3:5–17, Paul gives God’s plan for real, lasting change.
- The theme before us: **Reaching unlimited spiritual heights by changing our actions.**

Thesis:

True spiritual growth requires three deliberate actions: putting sinful behavior to death, clothing ourselves with godly character, and filling our lives with the Word of Christ.

I. Put Sinful Behavior to Death (Colossians 3:5–9)

- A. Paul does not say, “Just stop sinning.”
- B. He says, “Consider the members of your earthly body as dead.”
- C. The sins listed:
 - Immorality
 - Impurity
 - Passion

- Evil desire
- Greed (which is idolatry)
- Anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech
- Lying
- D. These things once characterized our old life.
- E. We are told to **lay them aside** and **put them to death**.

Teaching Point:

Stopping sin is not the same as killing sin. What is not put to death will eventually come back to life.

Callout — Warning:

If we only “pause” sin instead of killing it, we should not be surprised when it returns.

- F. Becoming a Christian does not automatically change our habits.
- G. Change requires deliberate, decisive action.

II. Clothe Yourselves With Godly Character (Colossians 3:10–14)

- A. We do not just strip off the old life—we must put on the new life.
- B. Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with:
 - Compassion
 - Kindness
 - Humility
 - Gentleness (meekness)
 - Patience
 - Forgiveness
 - Love

Teaching Point:

The Christian life is not just about what we stop doing, but about what we start becoming.

- C. Compassion:

- Jesus showed compassion when He fed the multitude (Matthew 14:13).
- Compassion moves us toward people in need, not away from them.
- D. Kindness:
 - Jesus healed the ten lepers (Luke 17:11–19).
 - Kindness requires involvement, not distance.
- E. Humility:
 - Jesus did not seek His own glory (John 8:50).
 - True humility is shown in service, not in self-praise.
- F. Meekness and Patience:
 - Jesus described Himself as gentle and humble in heart (Matthew 11:28–30).
- G. Forgiveness:
 - From the cross Jesus said, “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34).
- H. Love:
 - Jesus loved His own to the very end, even Judas (John 13:1).

Callout — Application:

If Christ treats people with compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and love, then so must we.

III. Fill Yourself With the Word of Christ (Colossians 3:16–17)

- A. “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you.”
- B. We cannot practice what we do not know.
- C. God’s Word must become:
 - Our instruction
 - Our correction
 - Our daily meditation
- D. Psalm 119:11 — God’s word kept in the heart guards against sin.
- E. Psalm 119:97 — God’s law must be our daily meditation.

Teaching Point:

Spiritual weakness often comes from spiritual starvation.

Callout — Warning:

There is no shortcut to spiritual strength. A neglected Bible produces a weak Christian.

- F. Many want a quick fix instead of a changed mind.
 - G. Real transformation comes when God's Word shapes our thinking, choices, and habits.
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IV. God's Recipe for Spiritual Growth

- A. Kill sin.
- B. Put on Christlike character.
- C. Fill your life with God's Word.
- D. This is how we reach higher spiritual ground.
- E. This is how real, lasting change happens.

Teaching Point:

Growth is not accidental. It is the result of daily, intentional obedience.

Conclusion / Call to Action

- God has given us a clear path to spiritual maturity.
- We must:
 - Put sinful behavior to death
 - Clothe ourselves with Christlike character
 - Fill our hearts with the Word of God
- If you are not a Christian:
 - Believe in Jesus Christ
 - Repent of your sins
 - Confess your faith
 - Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins
- If you are a Christian:

- Stop tolerating sin
- Start living transformed
- Pursue spiritual growth with purpose

Final Call:

Do not settle for spiritual mediocrity. Change your actions—and reach higher ground with God.

Slide Deck — “Reaching Unlimited Spiritual Heights by Changing Our Actions” (12 Slides)

Slide 1 — Title

Reaching Unlimited Spiritual Heights by Changing Our Actions

Colossians 3:5–17

Design intent: Light background, dark text, high contrast, serious and encouraging tone.

Slide 2 — The Struggle With Sin

Main content:

- Repeating the same sins
 - Feeling stuck spiritually
 - Wanting change but not seeing it
- Design intent: Reflective, honest, readable.

Slide 3 — Paul Understood the Battle

Main content:

- The conflict between flesh and spirit
 - Wanting to do right but struggling
- Scripture: Romans 7:14–25
- Design intent: Teaching-focused, clear.

Slide 4 — Step One: Kill Sin

Main content:

- “Consider them as dead”
- Do not just stop—put to death
Scripture: Colossians 3:5
Design intent: Direct, serious, high contrast.

Slide 5 — What Must Die

Main content:

- Immorality, impurity, greed
- Anger, slander, lying
Scripture: Colossians 3:5–9
Design intent: Clear list, sober tone.

Slide 6 — Step Two: Put On Christlike Character

Main content:

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
Scripture: Colossians 3:12
Design intent: Encouraging, clean layout.

Slide 7 — Forgiveness and Love

Main content:

- Forgive as the Lord forgave you

- Love binds everything together
Scripture: Colossians 3:13–14
Design intent: Warm, inviting, high contrast.

Slide 8 — Jesus Is Our Example

Main content:

- Compassion for the hungry
- Kindness to the sick
- Forgiveness from the cross
Design intent: Christ-centered, reverent.

Slide 9 — Step Three: Fill Yourself With God's Word

Main content:

- Let the Word dwell in you
- Teach and admonish one another
Scripture: Colossians 3:16
Design intent: Instructional, focused.

Slide 10 — The Power of God's Word

Main content:

- Guards against sin
- Shapes the heart
Scripture: Psalm 119:11, 97
Design intent: Hopeful, motivating.

Slide 11 — God's Plan for Growth

Main content:

- Kill sin

- Put on Christ
 - Fill your life with the Word
- Design intent: Summary slide, clear structure.

Slide 12 — The Call to Change

Main content:

- Do not settle for spiritual mediocrity
 - Pursue real transformation
 - Live for Christ
- Design intent: Call-to-action, encouraging, high contrast.
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