



May 21, 2018

## Embrace It!

***“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.” (Ephesians 4:17)***

Daniel Norris, LHP with the Detroit Tigers has learned what it means to embrace God. Here is what he says; *“I’ve been through a lot of challenges that tested my faith, times, when I’ve really and truly had to trust in God on a deeper level. I’ve learned, time and again, how to rely on God. It’s an interesting story and one that’s still being written.*

In the verse above, we read about Paul’s desire for the Christians in Ephesus to grow up spiritually and not live as they have been - *in the futility of their thinking.*” He then continues in the following verses to lay out some very significant steps for spiritual growth. First, he encourages them to no longer live like those do who are not connected to God (vs. 17-21). Second, Paul urges them to lay aside the old 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”* (v. 22). Finally, in verse 4:24 of Ephesians he charges them to *“put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”*

This charge to “put on the new self…” comes about when we stop living as self-reliant and begin living as God-reliant. Self-reliance clings to what has worked in the past – *“Coach the way I was coached,”* is risk-averse, is limited to what we think we can do and control.

God-reliance embraces new possibilities, it builds on past experience without being confined by it, is risk-tolerant, and seeks God’s guidance and timing.

In order for us to mature in Christ, we can’t look and act like the rest of the world. We must continually put off the old self and put on the new self. We must rely fully on God!

Daniel Norris has learned and made the choice to embrace and live God-reliant. How about you?

Live it! Coach it!

**Question(s):** Are you fully relying on God? Are you risk-averse and clinging on to the old way of coaching?

**Challenge:** Read Ephesians 4 and consider what part(s) of your old self do you need to walk away from.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for your gift of grace and for the opportunities each and every day to live as a “new creation.” Help me to embrace it with my whole heart in all that I do daily.

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball