

Under Renovation I

The Prelude

I often look at television shows, magazines, and websites of homes being remodeled. I love seeing the finished product because of the newness, the modern updates, and even the increase in value. Yet, the more I watch and observe the process of a home being remodeled, I become more aware of and develop more of a respect for the process of demolition, rewiring, inspecting, bringing things up to code and the necessary shopping that's needed for new materials. It's exciting, but not easy.

When we accept Christ, we go through the process of being remodeled. We are remodeled because **"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"** 2 Corinthians 5:17. We cannot claim to be new with old habits, thinking, hurts, ideals, and attitudes. Similar to a home being remodeled, it often takes a demolition to remove the old before the remodeling can occur. Therefore, if we desire to become new in Christ, we must go through His renovation process.

Foundation

Our ideals are the foundation to which we build everything. Before coming to Christ, we may have had opinions or strong, passionate beliefs about particular social agendas. But, I ask you, "Were these beliefs and opinions rooted in God's purposed foundation for our lives?" We must challenge our belief system and prove it with the Word of God so that the house that is being built is built on a strong foundation and is built as God purposed for us to build it. **Psalm 127:1** tells us, **"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."** We often try to keep specifics about ourselves that we believe belong to us. For example, we may like gossiping or we may like criticizing others; yet, these things are not of God. There are also things like certain careers, hobbies, relationships, or fellowships that we have that is not of God. I carefully say to you that these things may be seemingly profitable, but may not be of God. Let us be warned that we have a choice and we should choose to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. According to **Deuteronomy 28:15, 30b**, tells us, **"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee...thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein."** If our foundation is shaky, the house will not stand for long. In this case, our foundation is our relationship with and our obedience to God. You see, our beliefs may take us far, but if we claim to be believers of God, then He will test what is His to ensure we are able to withstand. Let God build the house.

Demolition

Our beliefs, passions, and gifts have to be challenged. We are told in **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**, **"Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."** This is important to know because we often feel that we have to give up too much to follow Christ. Depending on the strongholds we experienced as a non-Christian, we just might have to give up a lot! However, they are things that hinder us. Conversely, there are some passions we have been given by God that will remain with us. This is the gold, the silver and the precious stones. We have to allow the process of God's testing to occur so that the truth of who we are

is revealed. The fire will come. This is God's demolition process. That, which remains, are the beliefs, passions, and gifts that you were purposed to have. They are not the same for all individuals. So, we should understand that one person's demolition process would look different from another's process. As each house that undergoes a remodeling is different, so are we.

Now, that, which burns, is the wood, hay, and straw. These are ideals that are rooted in fleshly desires. They may even be another person's belief system that does not belong to you. Through the testing, these ideals, beliefs and passions will not make sense or profit you anything. These are the ideals, beliefs, and passions you should let go of. They are of no use to you and may even be a distraction. If you continue to operate in these, you can find yourself with a looping or elusive spirit. You can find yourself chasing the next best idea and thus, never really operating in your true anointing. This will lead you into a cycle of frustrated resources, strained relationships, and poor self-imagining. By going through God's demolition process, you allow the distractions to be burned up and allow the true gifts, passions, and beliefs to have your undivided attention.

Rewiring

Many times we will find, through a demolition, that a house may have been wired incorrectly and could have caused a fire or that the plumbing was inadequate. A contractor with integrity will not continue to build unless these issues are brought up to code. Some of us are stuck in this season in our lives. We want the great look of a remodeled home, but we don't want to pay for the safety features that are necessary to live safely in such home. When we are under renovation we may find that we have faulty wiring. We think negatively, we act selfishly, and we are motivated by greed, success, or prestige. If you find that your emotions or your thinking process hinders you from achieving Godly goals, then you should pray and accept God's rewiring process. It's messy, but necessary.

Rewiring entails changing our mindsets, removing damage from past traumas/hurts and/or closing up openings that allowed for unwanted spirits and sin to wreak havoc on us. Also, rewiring requires a sacrifice. We usually don't consider the costs of safety features. We tend to put our money and efforts into the things that seem to glorify us or make us feel good. However, we must begin to see value in the safety features of being rewired. From watching the Home Remodeling shows, it seems that the need to rewire or the need to bring something up to code usually comes as a surprise to the homeowner. Let's awaken to our need to change our habits, outlook, and thinking. Our thinking will cause us to act in error or to put too much of a strain on a particular anointing that is not grounded correctly. Let's look at **2 Peter 3:13-14**, which reads, "**But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.**" There is a work that must be done in our hearts in order for us to truly experience the newness that God has for us.

Finally, like a remodeled home, let's search out the newness, the updates, and the value that God has for us and has placed in us. Let's go through the renovation process that's necessary to bring about the newness. Let's keep in mind, **Isaiah 65:17**, which reads, "**For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.**" Let's go through the renovation process so that the old will be forgotten!

Inspired by the Holy Spirit through Pastor Mickisha Goss