

Extreme Makeover Home Edition

The United States of America is experiencing tremendous change at a rapid pace. Our place among the nations is changing also. The institutions within our social structure are in major upheaval. Families are in transition – the education system leaves much to be desired – labor ethics and policies are failing – many churches fail to apply the “healing balm” – nor does the government represent and/or serve the people.

This is not the end as many believe. We are in the process of remodeling; the end of old systems and the beginning of something different. Nothing remains the same. Remodeling can be trying because of all the disarray. The phase of messiness is a necessary part of the process. When we have planned the remodeling it is far easier to tolerate the discomforts because we believe that we are in control. It is when one feels powerless that panic and fear set in.

I am reminded of the television show *Extreme Makeover – Home Edition* and their sequence of events:

1. There is a dream team of workers with various architectural gifts who are looking for those needing assistance.
2. They gladly respond to calls from families in distress.
3. An initial assessment of needs is made by meeting the family in their home environment.
4. Planning begins as personnel is gathered for the work and the family is relocated.
5. The demolition crew tears up the old and removes the debris to pave the way for the new. Everything which no longer serves a purpose is removed.
6. The planning team is drafting new ideas as they consider the needs, desires, gifts and talents of each family member, especially those with special needs.
7. The community is assembled to work with personnel and celebrate with the family.

In the midst of all of this, the families trust the team explicitly. They respond in gladness and joy to the upheaval because it indicates their need has

not only come to the forefront, it is being magnificently supplied also. The temporary upheaval is part of their answer to prayer.

The change in our nation and the world has an impact on our personal lives, and it is more direct for some than for others. This can be frightening as many are losing homes, jobs are closing, and others are facing changes due to life and death situations. The churches strive to heal while the government promises to fix.

Rather than become paralyzed by the grip of fear, let us have the full awareness that fear is **f**alse **e**vidence **a**ppearing **r**real. Truth admonishes us to “*Be not afraid.*” Just as the desires and prayers of the families were noticed and answered on Extreme Makeover, the prayers and questions of humanity are being answered. Many are seeking to know the true purpose of life and the true identity of mankind.

Receiving the answers comes with the realization that it is unwise “*to put new wine (the vitality of life – divine ideas) into old wineskins*” (old ways of thinking – intellectual understanding subject to sin, sickness, poverty and death.) (Revealing Word, pg. 41) Only the mind of Christ can lift us from the old and transform us into the new.

We can help our makeover (the transformative process) by being fully aware of our inner thoughts, spoken words and activities, through close observation of the Extreme Makeover – Home Edition show. I have extrapolated helpful reminders to use in every stage of my personal makeover:

1. Work with what you have at present, lovingly and in thanksgiving.
2. Forgive yourself and others in all things – this keeps the debris removed.
3. Take time for your denials (tearing down false beliefs) and affirmations (building up in Truth). Speak them firmly and with feeling.
4. Turn to the Christ within and release every care. Know that the Master Builder plans and orchestrates your life. (Your controlling ways create static.)
5. Relax and breathe deeply while realizing that the Holy Spirit moves in and through us giving and sustaining life. Therefore, do not fear – trust God!