

By Wisdom a House is Built

by Susan Deyell, Edmonton

picture from istock.com



When I married, my girlfriend's mother wrote in a card to me..."A wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down" (Proverbs 14:1).

Wise or foolish; which one was I? Which are you?

What woman in her right mind would want to ruin her own marriage? Not one. We all start out with idealism and good intentions. Some of us see our husband as the prince who will take us away on his steed. Our expectations are high. Our glasses are rosy.

Things begin to happen. A small disagreement here, a strongly worded discussion there...a slammed door, silence, prolonged absences... until a marriage that once held an expectation of strength and unity is at best a rundown shack.

We blame the circumstances. Maybe we were too young. Maybe he was not really the "one." Then we blame him. He's always late, he doesn't pick up his stuff, and he's not making enough money.... He will never blah, blah, blah...

Not realizing that our own shortcomings are the problem, we look everywhere, except at ourselves. We fail to see that it is our own hands tearing and ripping away at our marriages. Not us. We would never be so foolish.

Since we are human beings, it can be no other way. The good we want to do, we cannot do; the evil we do, we do not intend to do. We become the foolish woman spoken of in Proverbs.

Is there any hope for us?

God needs to be the builder of our homes. The foundation of our homes and lives must be forgiveness... Christ's forgiveness for husband and wife. The framework must be repentance and forgiveness of one another, just as Christ first forgave each of us and gave His life for us. Our connectedness to each other, the wiring of our homes, depends on daily devotions and prayer, family worship and the receiving of Holy Communion. A home built in such a manner will be sturdy, safe, comfortable, and beautiful. Once built, we dare not move in our old stuff.

For a wise woman who takes God at His Word there is more. In Proverbs (24:3-4) we read, "By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." God the builder has now moved in His furniture, and is ready to decorate. Whether you read this passage literally and apply it to the furnishing of your physical home, or figuratively, referring to your spiritual development, either way God is the builder, the interior renovator, and interior designer extraordinaire.

We Pray

Heavenly Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, as you know, there are times when I am wise and other times that I am foolish. It is only by your grace that I can live as a wise woman and it is only through your grace that my home, my life, can be anything other than a rag tag shack. If left to my own devices my home, my life, would be demolished. Thank you for being my support and the support of women reading this devotion. Thank you for blessing and building marriages and relationships within your church. Thank you.

AMEN

"Show" Activity

As we come to Him each day in prayer, He shows us how to build; how to respond in relationships and circumstances in positive and constructive ways.



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