

A String of Pearls

The Proverbial Woman

March 2013/5773



How about a cup of java or tea, and something worth reading?

Gut The Place

I've been meditating upon Romans 12 for a few days now. Today I used my Strong's Concordance on my iPad to explore this chapter. I decided to take time and find the definitions of some of the words I thought I understood, only to have my understanding enhanced by my more thorough investigation.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

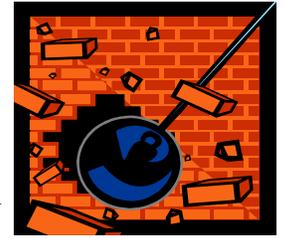
In my exploration I looked up good, acceptable and perfect, but I also looked up renewing. The word for renewal is the Greek word "anakainosis" which means renovation. I've lived through a few renovations to the homes I've lived in so I have a good picture of what it is to renovate a space. You've got to do a lot of prep work before you renovate. You have to decide what you're going to do by way of design before you begin, then you create a budget, then you make lists of supplies you need to buy, then list steps the renovation will take and decide which part of the job you will do and which part someone else will do. It isn't a simple thing to renovate. Once you get these steps done you have to clear the space you're going to work on and depending upon which space you've decided to renew, (find alternative options say for instance if you're doing the kitchen to getting your meals.) Once you've got all this in place you hesitantly begin. I have learned to hesitantly begin simply because I've lived through the

Special points of interest:

- I've been hearing that the Body is pulling together at lunch (noon) each day to pray the Lord's Prayer. There is power in unity and to be unified for Abba's kingdom to manifest on earth as it is in heaven is very powerful.
- Our Father which art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We ask you to give us this day our daily bread; natural and spiritual, lead us away from temptation and thank you for delivering us from all evil, for yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory and the honor. In Yeshua/Jesus we pray. Amen

Gut The Place.....continued

process a few times. There are always surprises and unplanned problems and delays. One needs to count the cost in a multitude of ways before beginning.



You can see that when Paul wrote "renewing" of the mind, it was more than just an eight letter word! In our minds we have old ideas. Those old ideas can become huge obstacles to the progressions in life. They can even become strongholds and it will be a much bigger project than one initially imagined for renewal. We love our comfort zones and for God to move us out of our comfort zones is no mean task. Even if we know it's for our best good, we may find ourselves fighting against the process.

As believers bought by the blood of the Lamb, we are not our own. The soul doesn't like to relinquish control of anything. Having the sentence of death to self and lust or appetite in oneself is acknowledging that we are no longer the masters of our souls. By making covenant with God through His Son's sacrifice we have given Lordship to God. God in exchange has given authority to His Son. Renovation seems like such a great plan when you begin, but it is hard work and takes dedication and drive to get the job done. I've watched more than a few television programs where folks get started on renovation project after project, but never see them through to completion. Perhaps they lose momentum or discover that they have champagne taste and a lemonade budget. Still other times they discover they don't have the know how to do the job, or they hire contractors that don't have the skill set they claimed to have. Either way, their homes end up patchwork quilts of half finished renovation jobs with wiring hanging out, baseboards missing, floors half ripped up or a myriad of other scenarios. How many of us are like that internally? God begins working on some area of our lives and out of fear of losing control may give Him access to part of the house, but seldom the whole and NEVER the closets.

I've been walking through some things that are not only decades old, but generations old. I wanted deliverance and started about the renewal of my mind, but when it got too close to the comfort zone of my old self I found myself backing down from the renovation. It feels like I'm attempting to uproot an old established oak tree next to a bubbling brook fed by a healthy stream. That sucker doesn't want uprooted! Thankfully I'm stubborn and God is right there cheering me on. I have enough word in myself to recognize many of the enemy's game-plays so I'm sticking with the project. It is not comfortable to allow God to do a renovation, but I know that though the chastisement He offers isn't fun, it offers the peaceable fruit of righteousness and that will be worth all the work this renovation will bring! I'm more than ready for God to "gut the place" and create a new space that functions on divine levels. How's your renovation going?

Letting Go



A girlfriend of mine called crying a few mornings ago. She was confused because something good was happening and yet she was extremely sad and crying in spite of her efforts to stop. She was packing to move into a new home and couldn't figure out why she was so sad. I remember being in the same place so many times that it was easy for me to see why she was sad when she thought she should be hilariously happy. She was letting go of memories of a thousand things and moving onto something new. I encouraged her to hold onto the pain of those past good and bad memories as she would face this part of life over and over, and embracing it now would make the future episodes of this series just that much easier to swallow.

Working in a nursing home I see people in various stages of "letting go". Some do it with resignation others go fighting all the way. Still others face each day with gratitude and grace, getting everything possible out of each bite like a child does as he bites into an ice cream cone. In spite of the myriad attitudes of these precious silver haired folks, each eventually lets go of life on this side and faces the new reality on the other side of the golden curtain of eternity.

Life on this side of eternity is a constant state of "letting go". We may see it as a "grab all you can and hold on" kind of thing, but life is truly a series of stages of working to attain and achieve and then coming to the realization of how futile it is to hold onto that which is fading, dying and passing away. And yet, the attitude one has in the living and letting go can make a difference to those who are left behind, to those who watch the elder "let goers". Excuse the ridiculous grammar, but do grab the meaning.

I see and remember the various stages of letting go in my own life. At eleven I let go of my precious Jack Russell/beagle "Tinkerbelle". I didn't let go with grace as she was my first great loss. At eleven I also let go of the dream home dad had promised and made do with someone else's home. I remember hearing my dad's disgust at the poor workmanship in the new home and his attitude and logical explanation helped me "let go". Along with letting go of my dream home, I had to let go of my best friend Michelle. Her loss was huge to me, and my mom worked for quite a while to find her and reconnect us. After we did, I was faced with the sad reality of how different she had become after our parting. This lesson helped me let go much easier in the future. As I recall my eleventh year of life I see that this year of my life was all about learning to let go. I would watch a boy just a year older than me let go of life as he suffered through leukemia. My father lost his mother to liver cancer this same year. I now understand God was preparing me to be able to let go of things in the future. I had to let go of motherhood several times. I let go of dreams as I buried my two month old son. I let go of a dear

Letting Go.....continued

friend to lymphatic cancer. I let go of grandparents to cancer. I let go of homes and jobs, of friends and enemies, and just recently I let go of my dear husband and the hope of growing old with him.

I will never say that "letting go" is easy or that it doesn't hurt, but I have lived through it and know that as I face my future these past experiences make the accepting and recognition something I can do with understanding and grace.

Metamorphosis

Again I want to focus on Romans 12:1-2



Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Let us compare the two words in these verses that describe the way the world operates and how the kingdom of God and His heavenly realms work. The first word we will look at is "conform", the second "transform". To conform is to agree or come in line with something or someone. The word used here that is translated "transform" in this passage is the Greek word "Metamorphosis". I am thinking about things in nature that go through metamorphosis; caterpillars change into butterflies, seeds turn into trees and plants. Both of these change from their original form into a totally different thing. So are those who love God and choose to participate in the things of His kingdom. We are changed or transformed from mortals into partakers of the divine nature! How does this change take place? Through communication with God via His word; both written and living! All metamorphosis is a process and requires time. Divine changes require faith or the divine power imparted through the word of God. We are told, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing comes by the word of God". Mark told us that the measure of study we give to a subject is the same measure of virtue (divine strength) and understanding we would receive back.

We have many religious ideas that don't necessarily line up with God's will or word. His word is His will. I've heard it said, "You never know what God's going to do"! These words normally

Metamorphosis.....continued

come from the seminary trained and not actual students of the word of God.

The Apostle Paul told the other apostles and disciples that that which he learned wasn't taught to him of men, but from Yeshua/Jesus himself. He spent hours studying the word, praying in the spirit and meditating on the word of God. During these times of dedicated communication with God he heard from the spirit of God and even had episodes where he communicated with the Lord himself and also had angelic visitations! Remember, Jesus himself said, "My sheep hear my voice". He fully expects us to be listening and hearing what he is saying. If we aren't, chances are good we are walking deceived and in spiritual darkness.



Conformity is like being pressed into a mold so as to make everyone look and act the same. Agree for the sake of agreement whether or not the pattern is a good one.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

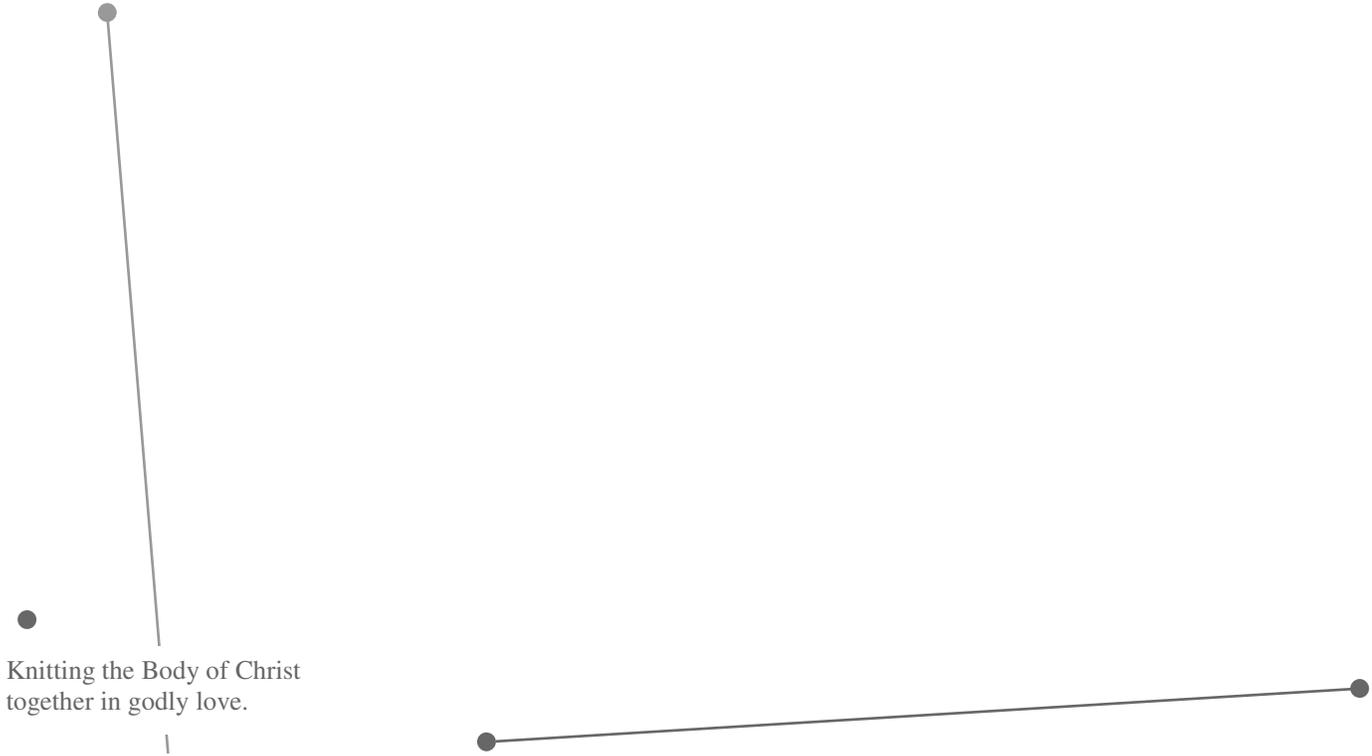
So many people work and work to measure up, when it is totally unnecessary. God is perfectly capable of doing all the "work" necessary for us to be transformed into His likeness! It's simply a matter of trusting that the perfect work of God was accomplished in His "pattern" Son, Yeshua/Jesus. All through his life on earth Yeshua would say, "It's the Father who does the work" when questioned about the miracles worked through his hands. He understood that he needed the power of God, God's will to be allowed to flow thorough him like conduit. In so doing God's perfect will would be accomplished. He also said that "greater works" would we (the Body of the Anointed one and his Anointing) do after he returned to the spirit realm. We strive through so many unnecessary struggles when we can simply trust in the Lord with all our hearts (spirits) and lean NOT to our own understanding (thoughts from the mind)! Remember our minds are subject to sickness, deception and corruption, but the born again spirit is not.

We have a perfect picture of faith towards God in Father Abraham. He believed God and it was counted or accounted (rather like being credited with) to him as righteousness. Father God told him to take his son Isaac up to the mount Moriyah (definition:seen of God) and sacrifice him on an altar. Abraham had such confidence in God's word that he obeyed. When Isaac asked where the sacrifice was that they were going to offer, Abraham replied, "The Lord will provide HIMSELF a sacrifice". That is exactly what happened. As Abraham was about to slit his son's throat the Lord stopped him and then God saw Abraham's willing heart (spirit) because God judges on the heart. He saw that Abraham was so sold out to believing the goodness of God that he trusted that God would provide a ram to take the place of Abraham's son!



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Metamorphosis.....continued

In a type and shadow we see God providing His son as the lamb slain from before the foundation of time. Abraham had a covenant with God, trusted in that covenant and acted accordingly. If he was willing to sacrifice his son, God would have to do likewise.

As we allow God to work the metamorphosis in our lives we must also resist the temptation to conform to the world. There is no point in being pressed into the mold of anyone or anything in this natural world. As we trust that our God is as omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent as He promises we know He is big enough to talk to us through His written and living word, Yeshua/Jesus! No matter how many human hands the bible has gone through, God continues to speak to humans to keep us on His path and plan. As we trust that He is alive and communicating He manifests Himself to and through us! Thus we are transformed into His image, His likeness! Oh I love my God! He is truly an awesome God!

I trust as you meditate upon these words I share with you, that you too will find your faith growing and the metamorphosis of corruption taking on incorruptibility! You my brothers and sisters are being changed into His likeness! How awesome is that?

