

Col. 3:9-10

Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and **have put on the new self who is being renewed** to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--

RENEW in the
*Greek means to

Renovate

Source: *The New Strongs Exhaustive Concordance*

“Renovate ME Lord”

RENOVATE: Restore (something old, esp. a building) to a good state of repair

ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from Latin *renovat-* ‘made new again,’ from the verb *renovare*, from *re-* ‘back, again’ + *novus* ‘new.’

Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

RENOVATION begins with the tearing out of the old....

A New Creation? Seriously?

Ever wonder why it doesn't really seem like we are NEW CREATIONS the minute we get saved? I mean, the Bible says that old things have passed away, behold, all things become new...and while that is true immediately as far as being forgiven and reconciled to God, it doesn't exactly translate to the saved person acting 'ALL new,' or the old self just immediately disappearing. Do you know why? Well, it's because God starts the 'sanctification' process the moment we become His, and this spiritual renovation into the new creation takes, well, a lifetime.

At least two parts to renovation:

The way I see it there are two parts to any successful renovation whether it be to a physical building or to a new life in Christ. The first thing is the tearing out of the old, and the second is filling up with the new.

Keep in mind that the purpose of "tearing out the old" is to 'replace' or 'restore' it to something new or better...the result being a place of usefulness, beauty, blessing and abundance.

This is my Story:

Since 2007, my husband and I have been renovating our house in the U.P. Because of lack of funds and time, it's taken a lot longer than a normal renovation, for sure. The work on the house was hit and miss for the past 3 years. I joke with people that we have been moving to this house for about 3 1/2 years...a very slow move from Florida to the U.P.

What a mess!

Over these years my husband, father in law, son and others have been tearing out the old inside this house. It was in very good shape on the outside when we bought it (new siding, roof, windows, furnace, etc.), but the inside needed to be completely gutted. The house itself was built in the twenties as most of the houses around this area since it was a (iron not gold:) mining town. Now, I wasn't here for any of that tearing out process, but I've seen pictures and I know the guys worked extremely hard knocking out walls, tearing out floors, and fixing some of the foundational and essential problems that were not seen, and indeed will never be seen, but are very vital to the structural integrity of this house. Truth be told, the first part of the renovation process is just a

m e s s !

It wasn't until we moved into our new house

that I got this epiphany of which I'm about to share. But first, just a little background. My husband and I have been married now for 22 years and haven't really ever had any possessions to speak of. We have never owned a house (until now), but have either rented or lived in a mobile home (actually it was a bus for ministry!). And honestly, I've been more than good with that, and I think he has been too. However, at this point in our lives it seems we are now entering the second part of renovation...filling up with the new.

I was still in Florida..

when my husband was purchasing the 'new wood flooring,' and the 'new carpet' for the upstairs... I was actually a little choked up when he told me how much money he had spent on these two things alone! I would NEVER have imagined spending so much money on such things! (I didn't even know we had it to spend...but that's another issue altogether:) But it didn't stop with wood floor and carpet, we ended up buying a whole bunch of brand new furniture too! We packed up the old and new stuff and headed off to the great, white north.

When we got there

the wood floor was already installed and the carpet was scheduled to be installed that week. It was truly a crazy experience for me to watch such extravagance, I wasn't used to it and honestly, it was a little uncomfortable. The carpet came, we moved our new furniture in, got a flat screen tv....and it seemed that everything we did from this point on was an improvement. It was only getting better with every single new thing we added.

Off with the Old, on with the NEW!!

The Epiphany: I began to see some clear similarities between my spiritual renovation and my physical house renovation. It dawned on me that for the 24 years that I had been 'saved' God has been tearing out, knocking down, cutting away, and pretty much stripping me of my old life and self. This spiritual renovation has been hard, (and very messy) and just like the house there will always be things to fix and repair. I know more than anyone that I'm not perfect, but there comes a time even in a physical house renovation that you stop the "full time" tearing out process and begin to install and put in the new.

The Blessing Train & Abundant Life

I never could've imagined being so blessed in all of my life as I am right now! Physical blessings include, but are not limited to: living in such a nice house (with a yard and everything); the beauty of God's creation all around me (Summer time in the UP is insanely awesome!!!); having

waaaaaay more *things* than I deserve. In addition to those physical blessings, I am blessed with (every) spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3) like: contentment (it really doesn't matter where I am or what I have, I am satisfied...really!); astounding grace for others; extreme thankfulness; the pursuit (in a very real way) of PEACE; consistent revelations from God; and just feeling revived, restored and healthy on the inside (because of the Holy Spirit Who counsels me)...I believe I have stepped right into the "Abundant Life Zone" in Jesus! Jesus spoke about it in John 10:10, "..... *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*"

I know my life in Christ will just get better and better. Not easier and easier, just more abundant, more fulfilling, **less of me pleasing me and more of me being pleasing to God;** After all, that's my greatest purpose on this earth and why I was RE-CREATED, to bring glory and pleasure to my Heavenly Father. (Jn 8:29, Heb. 10:9, Rev. 4:11)

Let the Master Carpenter do the work:

Just like a house renovation, this process of renewing or sanctification can get messy, especially during the 'tearing out' part of the process. This portion of the job can take awhile depending on the house... but we can't worry about it, we just need to LET the Master Carpenter do HIS job... have you ever seen someone trying to help when they don't know the first thing about construction, you know that they just get in the way and slow the whole thing down....Let's get out of the way and just cooperate with Jesus. Let's let HIM make each of us into a place of *usefulness, beauty, blessing and abundance!*

And if you feel discouraged by the seeming lack of progress at any given time, remember, Jesus may be doing one of those very vital foundational things that no one (including you) can see...work that will bolster the structural integrity of your life for His future use and glory. One more thing to keep in mind, this 'tearing out' work is only one part of the process, **abundance is coming**, maybe sooner, maybe later, but it's coming, and believe me, it's glorious!!

If you think about it, every one of us is a real 'fixer upper' when Jesus saves us...No, we aren't perfect at the beginning, nor should we think we are, and God doesn't expect it. What He does expect is a willing vessel ready to be renewed, sanctified, renovated and re-created for His glory. Let's not fight His renovations, instead, let us shout at the top of our lungs, **"Renovate Me Lord!" "Make ME New!!"**

Peace IN, Big D (dh 7.6.2010)

RESTORE

Renovate

RE generate

ReNEW