

When Repairs are Needed

2 Timothy 1:7

⁷For the Spirit God gave us does not make us fearful, but gives us power, love and self-control.

Building on a good foundation is key to having a successful life in Christ as PJ has been learning us lately.

The Rock of Christ Jesus will keep us in perfect peace while the storms of life rage around us.

If anyone has owned a house or bought an existing house you know that sometimes, many times, we get to a point when repairs are needed to keep our house in tip top shape.

We have purchased pre owned homes and Steph and I know that even with the best home inspector looking things over there are usually repairs that are necessary.

This can happen in our spiritual life as well. Many of us, I dare say all of us were not Christians right out of the womb. We lived a time apart from God before receiving his gift of repentance and salvation so we are a little used, pre owned you might say.

Ephesians 2:1-3

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

All of us have had to make repairs to our lives at one point or another because we all were once a follower of Sin and not Christ.

Now if you have had to remodel a home or make repairs for a leaky pipe or roof, you know that what you see is only the surface of the problem. That it exists much deeper and is usually much harder to fix than you think at first.

You see God is the master remodeler of our lives, he can see past the surface and right to the issue.

If we let him!

So often we know things are not the way they should be in our homes or relationships but we try to either ignore them or put on a happy face and see if they go away.

The problem is this; where ever you go there you are!

If the problem is in our thinking or in the way we react to situations, we can't escape ourselves. And the problem will just surface again and again until it gets to the point we can't ignore it any more.

When our lives begin to show signs of wear and we begin to see problems where do we turn?

Many people I know turn to what I call band aids.

Alcohol, drugs, and when these don't work any longer they become controlling, angry, depressed, and suicidal.

Wanting to deal with the problem but maybe not understanding where to start.

Many times Fear stops us

Most who would like to change are stuck in a pattern of fear that grips them and holds fast.

We as individuals have learned to place self preservation above all else. Don't do anything that causes hurt or exposes our soft undersides.

We have let fear prevent us from getting help.
Guys that never go to the doctor.

Fear is debilitating, and will allow the enemy to have his way in your life.

Snake and its prey

Jesus spent more time on this point than any other in his work with the disciples. He challenged their faith and called out their fears to get them to think beyond themselves and trust in him.

Now some fear is good for us, namely the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs describes the fear of the Lord in many ways and its benefits for us as believers.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, it brings safety and ease, security and peace, long life, helps us to avoid evil.

Now many of us might wonder what does it mean to fear the Lord?

Proverbs 22:4

Humility is the **fear** of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life.

So when we humble ourselves before God, relenting to His hand, it is like a doctor removing a tumor and we are placing our trust in his ability to bring correction and restoration to our lives.

So how do we get to that place where we can surrender?

It never comes by being forced or pressured.

It can only come by allowing ourselves to be loved and by loving others.

1 Peter 4:8

⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Sin is what causes damage in our lives and homes and only when we begin to allow love to enter in, can we begin to break free from fear and receive healing from God.

Proverbs 10:12

¹² Hatred stirs up conflict,
but love covers over all wrongs.

When Steph and I counsel we like to talk for a while to allow people to express themselves in a safe environment. I believe that is necessary so they can see we care more for them than just trying to fix something.

As we talk, invariably the root issues begin to come out and one of the most debilitating wounds in any relationship is unforgiveness.

This is probably the worst injury to a relationship that we can inflict on one another.

Holding on to hurt allows bitterness and offense to undermine all that the relationship has to support it.

Like termites eating away at your foundation.

Fear of not being heard or fear of being the first to submit or fear of having to change causes us to hold on and not forgive.

1 John 4:16-19

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

When Jesus came to the earth he could have wondered if anyone would change, if people would let go of their fear and begin to love one another. He may have thought it would be a waste of time to suffer and die because men are selfish and can never change.

He may have had those thoughts just like we do, but he did not let them stop him from surrendering to God and trusting Him with his life.

Jesus chose to allow love to guide him and not the fears that normally accompany man.

Love was the reason he chose to die and become the payment for our sins and in doing so drove out fear for good.

The more we know His love, the less we fear allowing Him to come in and make very necessary repairs to our lives, and our relationships.

The more we know His love the less we worry about ourselves and the more we reach out to those around us.

Perfect Love drives out fear.

Where is your heart at today, is it full of love or are there areas where fear still resides?

Are you holding on to self preservation and selfishness or is love guiding your relationships into greater unity and fulfillment?

As we close I challenge you to come and seek the Lord here at the altar, and if repairs are needed, to allow him to begin loving you through the process.