

Building Your Dream House

Part I – A FOUNDATION WORTH SHOUTING ABOUT

Scripture - Ezra 3:11
By: Roline Thomas

INTRODUCTION - Building your Dream House.

Just as every building needs a foundation if it is going to stand, so too, marriage needs a foundation.

- *It takes a significant amount of time and effort to lay a foundation and build a marriage.*
- *Without it a firm foundation, a marriage will crack and crumble.*

Facts About a Foundation:

1. It is heart of the house.
2. A building's integrity is totally dependent upon the foundation.
3. Carries the weight of the house.

Jesus is the blueprint for our foundation of marriage. Christ is the base which supports and holds up marriages.

Foundations are laid to be built upon. The type of foundation you lay determines the type of house or marriage you will build:

DREAM HOUSE MARRIAGE

1. You got it going on in your marriage because Christ is your foundation.
2. You understand God is the matchmaker who joined you and the sovereign who keeps you together.
3. God has custom built your marriage.
4. Husbands are loving their wives. Wives are submitting to their own husbands.
5. Your marriage endures the storms of life.
6. There is honor in the marriage.
7. The rooms in your house are filled with fruit baskets overflowing with love, joy peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.
8. Your marriage is bricked with God's Word
9. Your marriage exemplifies the relationship Christ & church.

RENT HOUSE MARRIAGE

1. You are committed to being uncommitted in your marriage.
2. You can't build upon this foundation.
3. Investments aren't made into the marriage.
4. You view your marriage as a contract instead of a contract. Thus you view divorce as an escape clause in the event things don't work out.
5. You are not residing in a place where God wants you to be.
6. As a wife you are not a help meet for your husband. You do not help your husband meet the purpose God created him for.
7. Couples are living married but separate. (Separate bank accounts, separate lives)

CRACK HOUSE MARRIAGE

1. You and your spouse are living like crack-heads with no purpose, no direction, & no structure.
2. You smoke Satan's pipe of destruction, and now you are under the influence.
3. You didn't consult the Blueprint for laying the foundation.
4. There are cracks in the walls of your house which enemy penetrates through.
5. Your marriage is decorated with junk. (The works of the flesh)
6. Your marriage is not fortified with the Word of God. You have allowed the enemy to come in and run your house.
7. The plumbing has backed up and polluted all of the rooms of your house. Your marriage is spiritually stinking.
8. The electricity is out, so you are sitting in darkness and have lost all hope.
9. An eviction notice is on your door. You feel there is no place for you to go.

Ezra 3:11

And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

The exiles, God's chosen, have been returning to Jerusalem following Babylonian captivity.

1. *The temple of the Lord, erected by Solomon had been destroyed.*
2. *There was a need for the people to have a place to worship God.*

We pick up the account of the actions of the people once the foundation was laid. It is from this passage that I would like to metaphorically discover what happens when we have a foundation worth shouting about.

1. They sang together...because the foundation was laid

A Foundation Worth Shouting About Restores Unity to Relationships

A choir consists of singers with many unique and differing voices, but each voice come together to sing the same tune in harmony to sound like one big voice. A marriage with a good foundation will yield the same results.

I have two eyes but I see one thing. My husband has two eyes and sees one thing. If the two have truly become one, it makes perfect sense for us not to have double vision. It doesn't mean that either of us has given up our sight, or senses. Because our marriage is built on Christ, we have one vision for our marriage. In other words marriage partners ought to be in harmony and in agreement. *"Can two walk together except they be agreed?"*

2. They Praised & Gave Thanks...because the foundation was laid.

A Foundation Worth Shouting About Raises Praise

Notice that the people began to praise God because the foundation was laid. They didn't wait until the structure was completely erected.

1. There are some incomplete marriages out there. Some of you may still be praying for your husband to love you, as Christ loved the church. Someone is praying that your wife will submit to your leadership as unto the Lord. But every now and then, you ought to stop and praise God for the work in progress.
2. We ought to have faith and demonstrate on this side of the blessing, that our blessing will come.

Your ATTITUDE determines your ACTIONS. The Israelites attitude brought on a spirit of praise & thanksgiving, because He is good, his mercy endures for ever. When you know Christ is your foundation, that he is mentally, emotionally & physically holding you up, it causes you to have a "TUDE" and you act out your "tude" through Praise!.

1. I'm not going wait for God to restore my marriage, *I am going to praise God as if it is already done.*
2. I'm not going to wait until my wounded heart is healed; *I am going to praise God as though I am healed.*

You have got to be crazy enough to believe that God will finish what He started. Realize that deliverance is on the coattail of praise. Paul said, "In everything give thanks."

The bible says we are to encourage one another. Learn how to encourage or give your mate praise in spite of their shortcomings. God loves & encourages you through his Word in spite of yourself. Offer your spouse praise because you know he is God's work in progress. Man was created in the image or likeness of God. Man responds to praise.

The Bible says Husbands love your wife, and women submit? Men need to hear and sense from us their worth to us. We need to make him feel as though he really is the leader in marriages.

You give compliments & encouragement to your boss.

You give compliments & encouragement to your pastor.

I'm not going to compliment and encourage another man more than I compliment and encourage mine. Foundations are meant to be built up on. If you are not building up one other, you are tearing down.

If you don't encourage your spouse, Satan will be happy to send Samson's Delilah to do the job. Delilah is watching and waiting for her opportunity to stroke him. Delilah has surveyed your foundation, and she observes cracks in your foundation.

1. If you don't tell him he looks good, Delilah will.
2. If you don't Take the time to find out his inner most thought, what he feeling, how was his day...Delilah will.
3. If you don't compliment him, Delilah will.
4. If you don't let him rest his head in your lap, Delilah will.
5. If you don't show an interest in him, Delilah will.

The Lord blessed me with a good man. It is not a chore for me to lift him up. Behind closed doors and in public. That's my husband, why should I hide the fact that I love Him.

Baby you look good today.

I especially love the way that shirt looks on you.

That was an awesome sermon,

You are a good provider

If all that man can do is cut grass, Tell him, Wow! That yard looks nice, How do you keep your lines straight. Nobody's yard look as good as our. Can't nobody cut grass like you, baby.

3. *And all the people shouted with a great shout...because the foundation was laid*

A Foundation Worth Shouting About Causes a Releases

We need to shout with a loud voice what God can do, so that he can release blessings in your home. He can save a husband, deliver a wife, build stronger marriages, resurrect dead marriages. A shout of praise releases God's grace & mercy.

We will cut a step for everything. There's nothing wrong with shouting because blessed you with a new job. There's nothing wrong with dancing because he blessed you with a new car, but sometimes times, every once in a while, you ought to get caught up in a step of praise & shout because of who God has joined you with.

- God my husband may be incomplete and deficit in some areas, but I thank you for him and I know that He is a work in progress.
- Lord, my wife can't boil an egg, but I thank you for blessing me with her, for she is your work in progress.
- Jesus, although my husband is saved, he is not leading by example, put I praise you for Him because he is a work in progress.
- Daddy in heaven, baby girl is going through some things that only you can work out. She don't take care of the house like she should, nor the children like she should, nor her own personal appearance the way she should, But Father I thank you, for she is a divine design, fearfully and wonderfully made, fashioned by You, and I just want to thank you because I know she is a work in progress.

If your marriage is built on a Foundation Worth Shouting About, you will be ready to build up on it.

Build up love

Give up selfishness

Lift up honor

Rise up trust

A Foundation Worth Shouting About is ready for Room additions.....

****This series continues with Part II by Pastor Earnest Thomas*