

3 Ways You May Be Tearing Your House Down

I married later in life. Fact is, I wasn't sure if I'd ever get married. The one thing I always wanted to be was a wife and mommy. When all my school yard buddies wanted to be firemen, nurses, police officers and mailmen, I wanted to be a wife and mommy. The years of being single among all my married friends granted me an inside view into what this verse really meant:

"Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands" (Prov. 14:1).

Over the years, I watched those who built their homes, while others teared theirs down—with their own hands.

That is a pretty amazing statement right there. They don't just bulldoze or take a wrecking ball to their homes. No, literally with their bare hands, they tear down their own homes brick by brick.

Have you been guilty of engaging in some demolition? I have from time to time too.

3 Ways We Tear Our House Down

1. A Critical Spirit

When we allow our spirits to become critical, bitter and filled with gossip, we destroy the spirit of our marriage, home and children. A critical spirit demolishes a home rather quickly, but a joyful spirit that encourages and fills the home with praise builds the home into a luxurious mansion and haven for the family!

We do this by first taking charge of our thoughts and then our

tongue, by filling our hearts, spirits and mouths with praise. Turn each negative and critical thought into praiseworthy and positive thoughts. Allow God to cleanse your heart of bitterness, and purpose never to gossip in your heart or with other women.

Stop! “You mean you can gossip in your own heart?” Yes, you can! By thinking, meditating and creating mock conversations about or with the one you are angry with. And it breeds anger, criticism and bitterness.

Let us not be foolish women by tearing our houses down with criticism, bitterness and gossip.

Let us us be wise women by building our houses with praise, gratefulness, faith and grace.

2. A Worried Heart

As mothers and caretakers of our homes and families, we often allow worry and anxiety to fill our hearts. We worry about how to care for our families when money is tight or sickness takes over. We grow anxious over our children’s futures and our husband’s job security. Worry is a cancer that eats away at our hearts and spirits. It guts out our homes and leaves them cold and empty.

However, a quiet spirit is a spirit at rest knowing that God always provides:

“I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor their offspring begging bread” (Ps. 37:25).

A quiet spirit knows that God loves and wants to care for our family even more than we do, and He will provide, even from unexpected or unknown sources. It is a faith-filled spirit that fills its home with rich promises of God’s Word and the warmth of His peace that blankets the home in the luxurious

comfort of His presence. Hebrews says that if we don't have faith we cannot even please God.

If we want to please God then we have to have a secure, quiet and steady faith in Him to provide and bring health to the ones we love.

We can build our homes with the building blocks of faith by memorizing verses about not worrying, reading books of great men and women of faith, and encouraging our children to join us in prayers for miraculous provision. You can also keep a "Faith Chart":

Draw a picture of a thermometer and color in each level as God answers prayer. Write the answered prayer beside each level. This will give you a visual picture of how God provides and it will be a visual reminder to your children as well.

This is building your home with your own hands as a wise woman!

3. A Nagging Tongue

There is nothing worse than a nagging wife. Even the Proverbs say that it is better to be dirt poor or to live in a corner attic than with a nagging wife who will not stop her endless prattle.

Here are a few pointers I have learned from my husband:

1. *Lists and men do not go together.* Do you want to frustrate your man? Give him a list with Nos. 1-10. They do not bode well for his nerves.

2. *Men don't mind be reminded, but don't remind him constantly and every day.* Gentle but clear, occasional and distinct reminders are helpful but not when they are combined with complaints and sarcasm.

3. *Men don't mind being reminded as long as they feel*

gratefulness for all of the things they are already doing: like going to work everyday, helping out with the kids or helping out around the house. Reminders combined with a grateful spirit will earn your “muchos kudos”!

A wise woman can build her home by first building gratefulness in her own heart for what her husband already does and reminding herself that her husband needs Saturdays for downtime. When it becomes a “honey-do” day, he will quickly burn out. Give to your husband by first giving yourself a grateful heart.

And then wisely build your home with love and gratefulness—the other stuff will get done in its own time!

So this year, let us purpose to be wise builders of our homes and marriages. It’s a lifetime commitment.

We can start today by answering the following questions:

1. What you are thankful for in your family and marriage?
2. What you find unique and wonderful about your family and marriage?
3. What first attracted you to your husband?
4. What character qualities do your children excel in?
5. What are those things your family or marriage can offer to your community and church family?
6. What answered prayers or divine provision have you experienced recently?

I am starting today. Who will join me?{eo}

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