

A time to break down, and a time to build up

If you are Christian, this morning, born again and saved from your sins, from the day of your salvation, God began breaking sinful things down and out of your life, and building up godliness and holiness into your life!

Christian, if you would be conformed to the image of Christ, if you would be built up and strengthened in godliness; if you would be made holy; God MUST first break down, demolish, and remove out of your life, that which is sinful, unholy, and dishonoring to Him.

When we were lost, living in SIN was our NORMAL; being conformed to the world was TO YOU and me, a NORMAL way of life. Your god was the god of this world; so many don't realize that, but it is so! And while you lived in the world, and in your sins, you had no serious thoughts about the true and living God; and if you did, you quickly expunged those thoughts out of your mind.

If you heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, you did not think seriously upon it, and you certainly didn't put yourself in that number of souls for whom He suffered and died! Christ and the cross were irrelevant to you!

But then, one day, all of that changed, when God awakened your soul to your own sins and to the reality that you had sinned against Him.

God awakened your mind and conscience to the fact that He was REAL, and He was GOD, and, at that very moment in time, He was focused upon YOU and your life and your sins!

God then graciously & mercifully opened your understanding to your condition; you understood, by the Word of God, that His wrath was against you, and you were His enemy! At that time that Christ was presented to you as the only Savior of sinners, and you turned from your sins and from your former life to Jesus in repentance and faith!

You were then awakened to a new life:

The god of this world had been expelled from your heart and life; now Jesus was your Lord and Savior and King. God then BEGAN (with supernatural and divine precision) to BREAK DOWN and DEMOLISH sin and ungodliness out of your life, and to BUILD UP (in you) holiness and Christlikeness.

I would like to illustrate this from the example of young King Josiah when he was eight years old and he began to reign in Judah. His first order of business was to repair the House of the LORD, and to purge it from how it had been profaned and filled with idols/false worship during the reigns of Ahaz, Manasseh, and Amon.

In the midst of the repairs/cleansing, Hilkiah the priest FOUND the Book of the Law of the LORD, hidden away within the House of the LORD, probably in some secret place to keep it safe. When it was found, it was immediately brought to the attention of King Josiah and then read before him.

And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the

Book of the Law, that he rent his clothes.~2 Kings 22:11
King Josiah's heart was filled with grief and sorrow because of his sins, and the sins of his people. Consider that Josiah HEARD the Word of God, but Josiah also REACTED to it/OBEYED it.

It was a time to break down, and a time to build up.

You might say; but Josiah was doing the breaking down, you said God is the One who is doing these things in our lives. Josiah was God's instrument!

Are you a hearer and a doer of the Word? Consider that when the Lord Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He FIRST commanded the people that were there at the grave TO DO something:

Jesus could have easily rolled back the stone, but He didn't!

Beloved of God this is the Christian life; if God is going to work in you, He is going to command you to take away some stones and to take off the graveclothes from your former life. At the hearing of God's Word there must be action/doing on your part; the breaking down and demolition of sin, and even the thoughts of sin out of your mind will only take place when you are obedient/when you react/act upon the commands of Christ!

ONLY then can there be a building up of Christlikeness in our lives!

As Josiah demolished and tore down and burned and stamped to powder everything that was abhorrent and sinful to God out of the House of the LORD, so God has appointed THIS time and season for you Christian, to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Josiah REACTED to the Word of God WITHIN his heart, and then he ACTED OUTWARDLY in repentance!

If we would be conformed to the image of Christ, we must also REACT/ACT! When God breaks us; it is so that He might build us up!

Christian: God intends to do His work in YOUR LIFE; you and I should want this more than anything! And so, take YE away the stone; and remove your graveclothes!

What is God breaking down and demolishing out of your life?

Pride, arrogance, unbelief, wicked thoughts, quarreling, anger, idols, (or idolatry), covetousness, the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, love of the world, lying, filthiness, foolish talking, and gossip. (To name a few)

Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer Proverbs 25:4

If we would be vessels set apart for God and honorable for His use, the dross of sin and wickedness must be purged and demolished from our lives; sinful strongholds and idols must be broken down and stamped to powder!

These are the stones that we must take away; these are the

remaining graveclothes that we must be loosed and freed from. And then, beware of rebuilding the things which God has demolished!

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance

Times of weeping and mourning are similar. Weeping in the scriptures is often a result of death and mourning for the departed, but it is also an outward emotion expressed because of sin against God and unbelief of God.

Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet!

Jeremiah wept for the sins of God's people & for their pride/unbelief in their rebellion and disobedience against the LORD.

O that we might mourn & weep (as did Jeremiah) for our sins and for the sins of our nation, for the sins of the church, and for the sins of our children!

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted

Matthew 5:4

It is written of Hannah, when Peninnah, her adversary, (Elkanah's other wife) provoked her about not having children, but also because the LORD had withheld children from her, when she went into the temple to pray, she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

So, she didn't answer Peninnah's provocations or react to her, she simply brought her sorrow and grief to the LORD and laid it out to Him! She was comforted! What an example for us!

Jesus wept for the unbelief of those at Lazarus' grave! Peter wept bitterly after he denied the Lord Jesus! Mary Magdalene stood outside of Jesus' tomb weeping; but it wasn't long before her tears were answered, and her mourning was turned into joy!

Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh Luke 6:21

There are times appointed by God for us to weep and mourn; don't fight back the tears or fight with those that have made themselves your adversaries, find your secret place of prayer; mourn before the LORD, bring your bitterness of soul to Christ; pour out your soul with weeping before Him. He will put your tears in His bottle!

We ought to weep for our sins and the sins of those whom we love; and we ought ALSO to weep for the salvation of souls.

Psalms 126:5-6

There is also weeping for joy & laughter which is not sinful; even dancing before the LORD when we are praising Him.

We must never forget that God will turn our weeping to joy:

David danced before the LORD when the Ark of the LORD returned to Jerusalem? 2 Samuel 6:14

And David danced before the LORD with all his might

Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh; Woe unto you that laugh now! For ye shall mourn and weep.

There were those that laughed at the Lord! They laughed Him

to scorn! There are those that will laugh at you NOW for your faith in Christ! But they shall at the last day mourn when you will be laughing!

God is building up, and breaking down in your life

Christian:

God has appointed THIS time; THIS season for you. It is a necessary breaking down so that He can build you up and conform you to the image of Christ! James 1:2-4

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance

MAKE SURE you KNOW these TIMES and SEASONS that God has appointed for you!

If you're lost, NOW is the accepted time, behold NOW is the day of salvation

Don't let this day, this time, this season pass without turning from your sins to Christ!