

A Make-Over In 2010— Week 3

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One of the recent popular television shows has been about a “make-over” for people. I have seen it a few times. It really touched me because many of these persons felt they were ugly and unlovely because of physical deformities. When the surgeon finished his work, they looked like a new individual.

In Ephesians 4:24-the Apostle Paul says, “And that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” I think the apostle must have been recommending a spiritual “make-over” for many of us Christians. In fact he used a good portion of Ephesians 4 telling of some of the things that needed to be changed. This must be an important process in the life of a Christian because it is repeated in Colossians 3:10, “And having put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”

There are times when we all need a make-over, spiritually and otherwise. Actually, the New Testament Christians must have been having problems because Paul reminds them in the previous scriptures to “put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts: and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.” It would be good to read that chapter once again. So we are encouraged that even though we have accepted Christ, to be renewed in our minds. If we are not careful, it is easy to slip back into our old mode of thinking. Every once in a while we all could use a spiritual renewal.

Right now, in the beginning of this new year, it would be good to take an assessment of our lives. Some businesses or factories take inventory at the beginning of a fiscal year. It is not that we are not Christians. We just need to take a new look at our spiritual being. We may need a make-over in some areas.

First of all, we need a new heart. I am not talking about a physical heart transplant. In the Old Testament the heart is the place of love and sorrow; romance and tenderness. It is the place of joy and compassion. It can also store anger, hatred, and things that are not like Christ. We make decisions with the heart. In fact we are to love the Lord with all our hearts. Some folks who had “new hearts” have now allowed bitterness, hatred, and unforgiveness to clog up the arteries of the soul.

The prophet Jeremiah talks of the heart and he says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can understand it?” Have you ever thought, Why do I say the things that I say? Why do I act the way I act? Why do I do all the stupid things I do? Why do really smart, intelligent, rational people fall for the wiles of the devil? Without a renewed heart in Christ, we can all be deceived. I read somewhere that sin can be defined as the “heart curved in on itself.” I have seen church people, in whom God had placed a new heart, and then they allowed the devil to curve their heart inward. They became selfish and self-centered. Sin is all about selfishness. God wants us to have a new heart of righteousness.

How about a new spirit? I think that is a great asset. It is the spirit that gives energy and power. We often think of the Holy Spirit as being wind. In fact, on the day of Pentecost, He entered the room as a rushing mighty wind. When I think of wind, I think of trying to fly a kite on a day when there is no wind. It just doesn't happen. That is like our trying to do spiritual things without the wind of the Holy Spirit. Then again the Spirit is likened unto breath, which is quieter than wind. It makes me think of the times that I have run out of breath. It is not a pleasant feeling and it can limit my activities. So when we are out of breath, spiritually speaking, it limits us in our walking in the Lord. How we need the breath of

the Holy Spirit freely flowing through our inward person. Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost."

Lastly the Lord said, "I will make a new covenant with you. When I think of covenant, I think of a relationship. How about our relationship with the Lord? Is it in the drifting, indifferent state—kind of listless and dull? Well, it doesn't have to be this way. God wants to renew our relationship with Him. A covenant is a lasting thing; not to be broken. Do you have a covenant with the Lord? Or is your relationship on today and off tomorrow?"

I recall Brother Bennie Triplett, many years ago, singing, "How about your heart? Is it right with God? That's the thing that counts today." So at the beginning of this brand new year, I am asking you along with myself, "How about our hearts?" We can have a renewed heart, a new spirit, and a new covenant with the Lord. Who is hindering these things from happening in our lives? We are. They are all available to us upon our asking of the Lord. We can have a spiritual make-over, and it is free of charge!

REFRESHED, RENEWED, REFILLED, AND REFIRED IN 2010!