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# God Tears Down To Build Up – 4/22/22

**GOD TEARS DOWN TO BUILD UP**
[BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE]

 Since becoming a Christian have you had any changes in the way you think, the things you say or the actions you take? Of course, you have. You are a new creation in Christ.

 What you are experiencing is a method God uses to bring about transformation in your life. God takes away, sweeps clean, throws out and remodels our lives. They can not stay the way they were.

 “Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved” [Matt. 9:17]. Just as water runs downhill, the sun rises in the morning and making disciples is a messy business, so to, God tears down in order to build new.

 Think of God’s calling of the great prophets like Jeremiah and Isaiah. To Jeremiah God says, “Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, ‘Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” Notice the “plucking up and pulling down” comes before the building and planting [1:9-10].

 Later on, in Jeremiah [23:29] God asks a question, “Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock to pieces?” God’s word destroys, purifies and crushes the old so new can be constructed.

 Likewise, God tells Isaiah how long he is to prophesy to Judah, “Then I said, ‘How long, O Lord?’ And he said: ‘Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or and oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump.’”

 The previous has to be leveled and scoured clean. This is true for the people of Israel and it is true for all followers of Christ. John Wesley stated his order of preaching like this, “Before I preach love, mercy and grace, I must preach sin, law and judgment.”

 This biblical principle of God cleaning the old man/woman and making a new man/woman can be read in John 12:24, “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” And there you see the purpose of deconstruction of the old. It is to make room for a fruitful multiplication that the old could never produce. That fruit is twofold, Christlikeness and more disciples of Jesus.

 When you came to Christ there needed to be a dying to self so Christlikeness could begin. A transformation of your thoughts, words and deeds and a dying to your old thoughts, words and deeds, was the road you journeyed down. Help your disciple do the same. The old has to be torn down for the new to be built. All of it.