

Going Back to the Drawing Board

Old film clips clearly establish that man's quest for wings has involved considerable time in planning and experimentation. There was the man jumping off a cliff with a pair of large bird-like wings. Others tried primitive helicopters and many other contraptions that came crashing down to earth. In spite of objections that man was not intended to fly, the quest for flight was not abandoned. Today, the Wright brothers are famous for their work on the airplane. Their efforts, along with many others, have proven that all those trips back to the old "drawing board" paid off.

Do you, as a Christian, ever take time to go back to the drawing board? It is not too uncommon for a Christian to become stuck in a rut. We become caught up in living in this world and take our sights off of what we are to be about. When this happens it is time to go back to the drawing board and take another look at our lives, reassess our priorities, review our strategy and plan our next steps. Paul said it this way, *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves"* (2 Cor. 13:5).

May we never be afraid or ashamed to return, on our knees in prayer and with Bible in hand and heart, to the old drawing board of life. (David Bragg, Clinton, TN)

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOME

Grace Noll Crowell

So long as we have homes to which men turn at close of day;

So long as we have homes where children are and mothers stay;

If love and loyalty and faith be found across those sills,

A stricken nation can recover from its gravest ills!

CROWDED INTO A CORNER

by Dennis L. Curd

It is easy while rearranging or cleaning out a storage area or a closet to sort of push things into a corner and forget about them. We may have the intention of doing a thorough cleaning and we begin by taking everything out and looking at it. Some things clearly can be thrown out; others we are sure we want to keep. However, some things fall into a middle category. This category holds those things we hate to throw away, but deep down we know we're never going to use. We stick them in the corner, out of the way, and thus salve our consciences.

It's that same philosophy that is followed when people do spiritual house cleaning. Some things are easily discarded; others easily held onto. Then there are those things that our consciences will not allow us to throw out, but we have no intention of letting them become priorities in our lives. God has always recognized this potential in people. He knows that truth is available to all because that's what makes things work. However, we think that to take such things too seriously would produce a hindrance to our chosen lifestyle. Nevertheless, God keeps that knowledge ever before us. His wisdom cries out everywhere (Prov. 1:20).

We may choose to take that wisdom from God and place it over in a corner to be retained but ignored, but we must face up to its presence sooner or later. Isaiah once challenged Israel with words depicting a future glory. He said this: *“for the people will dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of the cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers”* (Isa. 39:19:20). Their impending trouble would cause them to clean out their corners and pay attention to the contents.

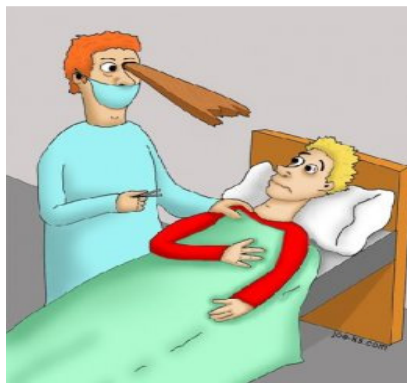
Our spiritual corners may need to take the place of many things we choose to put out in the open. So many things get in the way of doing what we know we need to do. Easing the conscience by having it nearby but out of sight is nothing more than searing that conscience (cf. 1 Timothy 4:2). After enough time passes a future cleaning may take those things out of the corner and discard them totally. They are no longer seen to be even potentially vital to our lives.

Let’s take up the challenge to properly clean out our lives. Put everything in the right pile and especially put God in His proper place. If we don’t we need to remember that God one day will do a bit of cleaning as well.

BEWARE OF THE “PLANK-EYED” SPECK HUNTER!

“And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” (Matthew 7:3-6). (Jesus)

It is very easy to become one, and very easy to fall prey to them as well! Beware!



Let me take that speck out of your eye.

“Let me take that speck out of your eye!”