

Letting Go

There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth: A right time for birth and another for death, a right time to plant and another to reap, a right time to kill and another to heal, a right time to destroy and another to construct
Ecclesiastes 3:1–3, The Message

Letting God

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards." Matthew 7:24–27

What shame and fear teach

- I am stupid
- I am a loser

What Jesus said

- I am fully prepared to share my smarts with you
- I provide everything you need; as I provide, work my provision into your life

"Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can't believe that, believe what you see – these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing...A loveless world," said Jesus, "is a sightless world. If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him – we'll move right into the neighborhood!" The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

John 14:11–12, John 1:14, The Message

Pause to Prepare

Shame-filled, we may be tempted to focus on the loss that inevitably accompanies foolish building. From this moment forward, I pray that we will pause to prepare and shift our focus. Stop with the home improvement projects - ones selected to make us look better on the inside. Instead, I ask that we consider making this an inside job. Forget about the waves, the rocks, the rain, the flood, the eroding shores, and make a decision to do whatever it takes to turn our undivided attention to the One who created those waves, rocks, rain, flood, and shores.

Food for thought

1. What is one step that you can take this week to believe in the one He sent?
2. Jesus has promised that he is fully prepared to share his smarts with us. How could you get in on that action?
3. Do it. Don't make a big deal about it. Don't promise something you can't deliver. Don't get your hopes all tied up in your ability to follow through. Just for today, do one small thing to improve your conscious contact with God. Tomorrow, do another small thing.
4. Don't measure or expect results. Do wake up and consciously remind yourself each day to live in eager expectancy. What might Jesus be doing today to share and provide everything you need for an abundant life?