What God taught us through a wall

Sometimes God speaks through the most unexpected things...





Hey church!

As many of you are now aware, we knocked off the wet and blistered plaster off the front right wall within the sanctuary, only to find a wonderfully rustic brick wall beneath. The whole church was behind us when we decided to stick with the exposed brick vibe instead of planning to re-plaster once the brick had dried out.

But what we didn't expect was for this to give way to a series of prophetic moments.

Let me explain.

On the Saturday as we were taking down the plaster, someone popped their head in to see what we were up to and upon seeing the wall turned to me and said:

"I feel this is quite prophetic. It feels as though God is using this as an illustration to explain what He's been doing over the past few years. God has been stripping the church back, down to the basics, the church is the people, like the bricks, that the unimportant is being stripped away, through the reshuffling and stripping back it has created space for growth. That God could only bring in this growth when the community (people = bricks) were in order. This is the beginning of something beautiful. I think it is stark that we'd originally just wanted to strip back a layer because there was a problem. Yet when we started it became apparent that we had to strip it back to the bricks, to solve the issue ended up showing what had been built before, like it is the basic blocks that together make up the church.

It makes you wonder what else in our lives we have plastered over..."

Then at our ministry meeting on Monday evening, Jayne, one of our elders, came along who had yet to see the wall. When she walked in, she was stopped in her tracks to wonder at what she was looking at, as she had a whole list of things to talk about that she had felt God had laid on her heart during the week before our meeting.

She felt that God said that church was to be a space of beauty, uncluttered and to contemplate at and in.

If we can't care about a wall and all the other 'stuff' then how can we be serious about the importance of faith? Only then will the building we worship in become a reflection of reverence.

But she didn't understand this until she saw area and the wall for herself.

God is wonderful and powerful, giving us a firm foundation to build.

Finally, after the morning service and just before the members meeting, I felt God put on my heart Isaiah 54:1-5, which reads as follows:

> "*Sing, O childless woman, you who have never given birth! Break into loud and joyful song, O Jerusalem, you who have never been in labour. For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband," says the Lord. "Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home, and spare no expense! For you will soon be bursting at the seams. Your descendants will occupy other nations and resettle the ruined cities. "Fear not; you will no longer live in shame. Don't be afraid; there is no more disgrace for you. You will no longer remember the shame of your youth and the sorrows of widowhood. For your Creator will be your husband; the Lord of Heaven's Armies is his name! He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, the God of all the earth."*
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> Isaiah 54:1-5 NLT

I felt God speaking to me through this on two fronts.

Firstly, that God is seeing all that has come before, all the years, the ups and downs. That many of our church members are feeling the grit of life at the moment, but that He is saying that they're seen. But this isn't the fullness of the story, greater things are yet to come.

I also feel that God is calling us to stretch out the boundaries of our vision, prepare for growth, though it can't be seen in the physical doesn't mean age isn't beginning. What we've seen already is nothing compared to what He is about to bring. But the preparation work needs to be put in place, in the original text it uses the illustration of a tent being opened, stretched out, more material being put in place, the tent poles being strengthened and fortified as the area needs to be bigger to hold the amount that is incoming.

I was blown away by this and needed to sit with it.

After these three words came together at the beginning of the week, I felt this needed to be shared wider.

Church, we are in the midst of a move of God. We've seen glimpses, but it feels like God is calling us to be ready, willing and able to go where He calls.

Rev Phil

