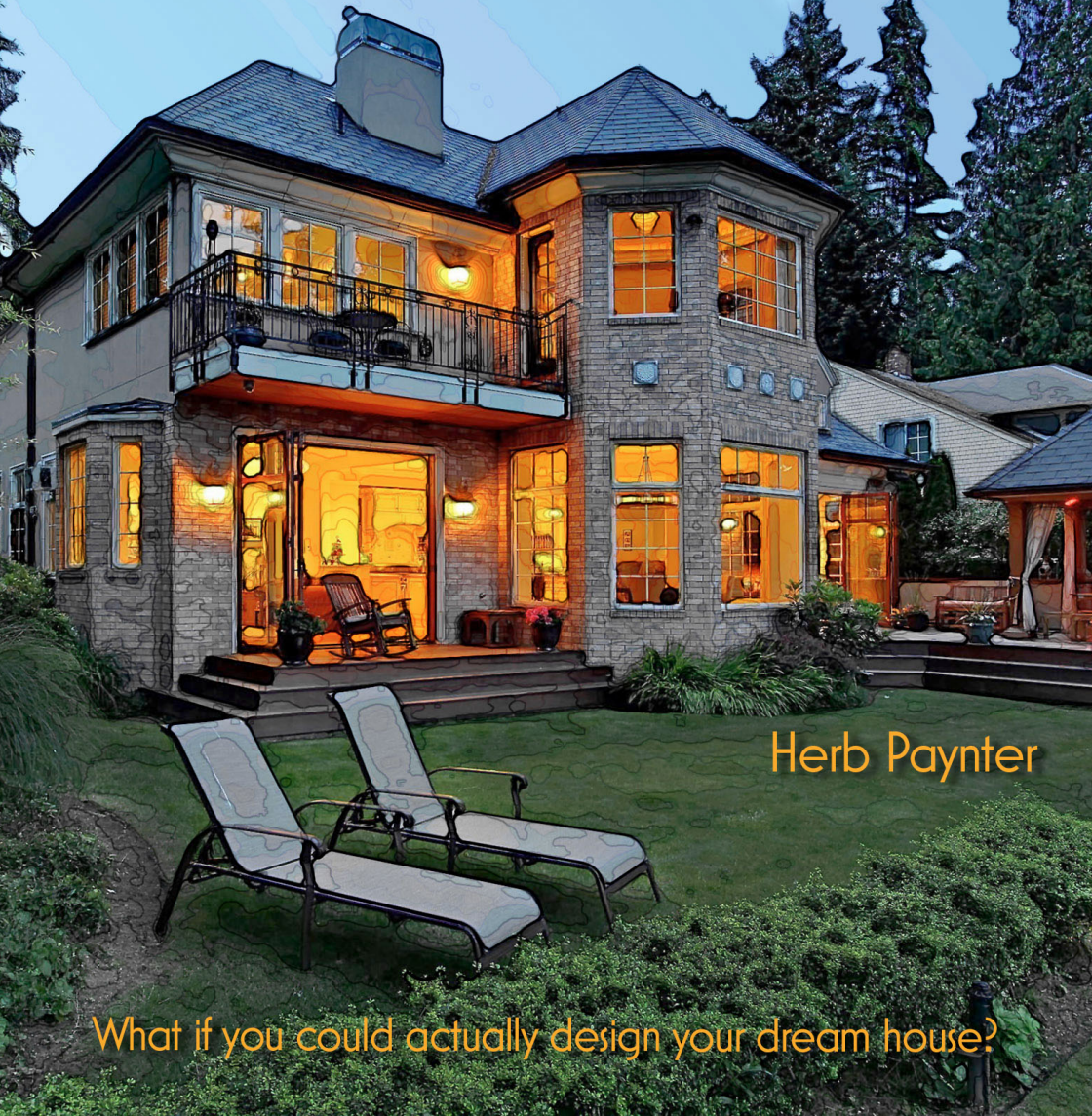


Designing Your Dream House



Herb Paynter

What if you could actually design your dream house?

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Introduction

If you are an adult, you've probably lived in many different apartments and houses in your lifetime, some more desirable than others. While most are quite livable, few are what we would call ideal. But what if you could actually build your dream house? If cost were no object and the only building restriction was that you only use the very best materials.

Would you take the project on seriously and really dream big, putting significant thought into it? What if time were not an issue, you had unlimited resources, and you had access to the best designers and craftsmen? Does this sound like an unrealistic pipe dream?

Well, if you are a believer in Christ, it's not a dream at all; as a matter of fact, it's a mandate from God. This is a reality, not a pipe dream, and the best part is... the building project is not only funded completely by God but the structural framework is taking place behind the scenes and right now.

Seeing the Big Picture

When we look at our lives we usually see a hodgepodge of independent decisions and unrelated circumstances that take place over time. Sometimes things work out better than others. Occasionally we benefit from our actions and decisions though more often than not, we don't.

Life is all about dealing with everyday circumstances and surviving to do battle again with another set of challenges the next day. We make some long-term plans and work toward our goals as best we can, but realize that life doesn't always work out the way we would like. Some days are more challenging than others and most days pass by without making much impact on our lives.

But as a believer in Jesus Christ, if you could see these everyday events through God's eyes you would realize that your life is not at all as disjointed as it seems. Every day is actually just as important as another and all days have an impact on your future. What you would see is that each independent circumstance is really part of a carefully orchestrated building process and that the decisions and responses you are making to seemingly random events will have a collective, profound, and eternal consequence.

Your daily decisions and actions are actually determining what your eternal position and future responsibilities will look like. Would you be more careful about your actions and more calculated about your decisions if you could actually see the structure that those actions are building? Maybe its time to put your spiritual eyes to work and see what your actions and decisions are producing.

Every Day is a Test

The decisions you make and the actions you take each day of your life are literally shaping the structure of your eternal dwelling. The level to which you deal with everyday life situations in this life will be the gauge by which God will evaluate your position and dwellings in the next life. He designed and equipped you to deal with each situation that arises and expects you to look to Him for guidance. Your level of response to His “leading” will determine the “house” you are building and how competent you are to serve Him in His kingdom.

He designed your future place and position in His kingdom long before your birthdate here on Earth. He created you with specific talents and gifts that uniquely prepare you to deal with every situation you will encounter in this life. God designed you to be totally fulfilled by life lived in accordance with His will. There is simply no room in your being for more contentment than this.

Happiness and thrill are temporary emotional states that occur occasionally in human life and are the closest things that Satan can offer to God’s everlasting rewards of spiritual joy and contentment. Knowing that we are functioning as fulfillment agents for God’s will delivers an internal and eternal glow and purpose to our inner being that cannot be matched by anything Satan has to offer.

We are spiritual beings who enjoy fellowship with and within our spiritual family. Fellowship is the word we use for a spiritual state that has much more meaning than the dictionary can deliver. Living in a state of fellowship with our God, made possible by the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit is the realization of the very purpose for which we were created.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens.

1 Peter 2:2-5

As newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto your destiny; if ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious: unto whom coming, a living stone, rejected indeed of men, but with God elect, precious, ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:8b-17

...every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are laborers together with God: you are God's husbandry, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another builds thereon. But let every man take heed how he builds thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.