

IS THERE MORE THAN ONE ROOM IN YOUR HOUSE?

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Brenda Murphy - brenda@brendacobbmurphy.com

The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live.
(Flora Whittemore)

The blueprint and décor of your home is usually determined both by your finances and by your personal tastes. While Terry and I together play a part in decorating our house, I always have a place where I set up my personal items, as those don't fit in with the décor of our rooms. My treasures may look tacky to others who don't understand the emotional value they carry, as they may be the wrong color for a room, or be inappropriate in the rest of the house. For example, I like toys like yoyos and hoola-hoops, but they're not what we want in our living room. On the wall in my office is a picture of ocean waves washing into houses, because I saw that same scene once in a dream. I have my antique typewriter on its red stand, and metal puzzles hanging on the wall. Each item in my personal space is attached to a memory or evokes a positive emotional response. Do I treasure items that evoke a negative emotional response? No, why would I? I keep happy things.

Just as we have a physical house, we have a spiritual house. This house is individual to us and is where we live out our Christianity. Each conversation, each time we personally interact with God, each miracle He performs in our daily life all become treasures we add to the rooms in our spiritual house. These are often very personal and not usually shared with everyone, in the same way that I take guests into my living room but not into my bedroom or office.

I love what Proverbs 24 verses 3 and 4 says. *By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.* It's not talking about knowledge OF God, or knowing ABOUT Him, it's KNOWING HIM. Our rare and beautiful treasures are unique to us. One way we acquire spiritual treasures is because He personally gives them to us out of His deep and passionate love. Another way is our seeking after Him, treasures that are born out of time spent together.

The first room we build in our spiritual house is usually the Throne Room. We learn from the beginning that God is a holy and almighty God, and we spend time in our Throne Room (hopefully not just on Sunday mornings) filled with a heart of worship and adoration. One treasure in my Throne Room comes from a vision of Jesus I had where I saw Him in His crown. Another is a time where I was overwhelmed by His love for me.

Of the limitless ways God wants us to experience Him, we have a tendency to confine Him to the Throne Room. That's understandable in that typically we are only shown and taught the God that dwells in the Throne Room. In here He is more of an Old Testament personality in that He is big, glorious, and should be approached with reverence and awe. YES, and yes again. **However, to keep God in the Throne Room is to limit His ability to move in our lives and to limit our experience of Him.** In order for Him to become the God of the New Testament, who wants us to know Him as "Daddy" (Romans 8:15,16) and as our Bridegroom (Ephesians 5:31,32), we need to let Him out of the Throne Room and into a more relaxed room of our house. No matter how big and wonderful your Throne Room is, it shouldn't be the only room in your house.

Does your house have a Den? I love this room, because in here I can relax and be myself. This is where I play with my Daddy-God. This is where I talk and laugh and tell jokes, and even if they're corny Knock-Knock jokes He laughs with me like they're the funniest jokes He's ever heard. Daddies do that, you know. This room is where I come running when I have a boo-boo and where I cry out my hurts, disappointments, and fears while He kisses them away. This room stays messy. In here Daddy-God sees my faults, my insecurities, and my doubts. In here I throw temper tantrums and hold pity parties. But does He judge me? No, instead He gives me big hugs, and then we wrestle and tickle and play. Some spiritual treasures in my Den are a Nordic Track, a red Reach toothbrush, and a Proverbs calendar, because these items carry a story with them of how much my Daddy-God loves me.

On the wall in the Den is a dry-erase board holding current petitions, needs, and wants, because God has asked us to bring them to Him. It's easy to get carried away with our petitions and just add on a separate room off the Den called The Petition Room. Here the walls are COVERED with dry-erase boards and there are pens in every color of the rainbow. Our worries, fears, doubts, and concerns are underlined, color-coordinated, and highlighted in alphabetical order. A path is worn across the Den floor straight to the Petition Room because that's where we head

any time we enter the Den. **There's nothing wrong with having petitions that you want to bring before God, but that should be balanced with spending time with God just to seek and know Him, NOT just for what He can do for you.**

The secret of the Den that you'll discover, if you spend much time there, is that your petitions seem to get smaller and smaller until you think, "Never mind, He knows my heart and He's taking care of it." And once you leave the Den those burdens generally stay behind.

When Matthew 6:6 refers to going into our "prayer closet" (a label we can thank King James for), God is telling us that He wants our prayer life to be between Him and us, it's not for public show. The translation of the Greek word "closet" is misleading. Other translations of the same Greek word (even in King James) are *inner chamber, room, secret chamber, inner room, and storehouse*. I think of this room as the Bedroom in our spiritual house, because this is the most personal room in a physical house. It's just for those who live there, a room of intimacy and the sharing of hearts. This is our Jesus room, where we spend time with our Bridegroom just hanging out and getting to know Him.

Here is where Jesus and I sit on the loveseat together and talk, with our shoes off and our feet up. Here I dare to trust Him with my innermost heart. There is a fireplace with a crackling fire in the winter where we cuddle and drink hot tea or a Starbucks hazelnut latte. In the summer my spiritual bedroom has a large, airy porch where we sit in the swing and talk, looking out over whatever I want to look out over, whether it's ocean waves, the Swiss Alps, or cherry trees. I have many treasures in here, but there's only time to show you one.

Relaxing with Jesus one morning I said, "My tea was too hot and I've now burnt the inside of my mouth. Have you ever burnt inside your mouth?" Then I got to wondering if they had fire when He was on earth, oh yeah, of course they did. I continued, "Well yeah, you DID have fire back then," I teased, "so, you're not older than fire." Then it struck me—He IS older than fire! "HEY!" I said, "You're older than dirt!" Now it's our own private joke and we tease about it.

Another room available in our house is the Schoolroom. Physically we may have negative connotations with this room, but it's the most amazing and wonderful room imaginable. Here is where we meet Holy Spirit. This room has all kinds of potential for treasure, and you'll not only find a desk but comfortable, overstuffed chairs

for talking and laughing together. The things Holy Spirit has to show and tell us are limitless. **The treasures in this room fill our life with adventure and destiny.** It's here that He shows us what our life can look like and how to walk in it. In here he teaches us to how to please our Bridegroom, and what a life as a child of the King can be. It's not that we SHOULD be spending lots of time here, a relationship isn't a chore or a discipline, but this is a WONDERFUL room! Pictures of our dreams, hopes, and visions hang on the walls. Carved bookshelves hold infinite knowledge, bound in materials not visible to physical eyes. The treasures Holy Spirit has shown and taught you reside here, all colorful, precious, and unique.

If you looked at the treasures in my School Room you would see a large, glass "diamond," and you would think, "Hmm, wonder why she has this garish ,fake diamond in here." But here's a secret about your rare and beautiful treasures—without knowing the story behind them they don't look like treasures. In my School Room you'll find things like a red semi cab, a white tiger, a rear-view mirror, and an astronaut who looks like he's flailing through outer space. You'll find books (things that we feel that Holy Spirit has shown us) on Kingdom living, the Bride of Christ, and hearing God. You'll see on the walls pictures of me as a writer and as a ballet dancer. You'll find several notebooks of questions lying open on my (spiritual) desk, ready to ask Holy Spirit the next time I'm in there.

Off The Schoolroom is The Door. This Door is unlike any door you've ever been through. It opens to the most wonderful, exciting, and awesome place, one beyond our imagination—the supernatural, spiritual realm. For Christians, this place is only to be accessed through Holy Spirit, which is why this door exits out of the Schoolroom. Once you walk out this door you're in a world full of adventure, ministry, and the supernatural. The spiritual realm has no map; Holy Spirit will guide you into places and adventures that can become more real than the physical. The treasures you'll find through this door are amazing, and you'll discover that the more time you spend in the spiritual realm the more you change. You can carry your baggage with you through The Door but it won't stay with you long, because you'll soon discover that you're having too much fun to hang onto it, and before you know it you'll be saying to Holy Spirit, "Here, hold this for me." My treasures beyond The Door include a beach in Ireland and a man called Thomas.

Satan and religious spirits hate this Door with a fury, because it's through this Door that Christians learn to walk victoriously, to let go of striving, struggling, and religion, and to live the adventure of walking with the living God.

One room we all have in our spiritual house, whether we'll admit it or not, is the Dark Room. In this room, instead of treasure, we store our baggage. Some people have their secrets, wounds, and shame lined neatly up on the shelves and visit often. Others have just tossed theirs in and slammed the door, pretending they aren't there. **The dark things in our lives exist in this room, and many people choose to spend time in it just looking and handling each item, allowing this room to hold a dark power over their life.**

Everyone has this room, though they may use different keys, for example, the Self-Pity Key, the This-Is-My-Identity Key, and the I-Choose-To-Continually-Relive-This-Pain-By-Talking-About-It Key (even though the event happened years ago). One key is called I-Know-This-Is-A-Bad-Habit-But-I'm-Not-Sure-I-Want-To-Stop. The secret to this room is using the right key—the Light Key. The Light Key is both the easiest key and the hardest key to pick up and use, and for the same reason—you. You must CHOOSE to use this key.

Dark rooms are the most common rooms of all, no one is exempt from having a dark room. Some are darker than others are, but the same Light key works on all of them. And this key won't instantly flood our room with light, because the light in this instance usually works, by choice, on individual items. We walk in and let Holy Spirit know that we're tired of this dark and ugly room and we're choosing to clean it out. Show Him what's on your shelves, forgive the wound, and ask Him to shine the light on it. Once we allow the light to come in we have to make the choice to leave that light there, and that choice may possibly need to be made dozens of times a day. Researchers say that the first four days are the hardest, but if you can make the choice to leave the light on for four days it gets easier, because after four days of reprogramming your mind to the light your brain begins to actually believe it.

Every time we recognize that we're stealing away to our dark room we must choose to say, "Thank You Holy Spirit that You've brought Your light in, and I'm not going to linger here any longer." **The Light Key brings the treasure of His love and patience as He puts us together again.** Choose life, not death. And in case you don't know, the Dark Room is death. Hurt people hurt people, but once you allow God's light inside your Dark Room it becomes a Healing Room, and healed people heal people.

Does your house have a Music Room? The treasures you find here are times when you have connected with God musically, whether it's singing or playing an instrument. I'm ashamed to say that my music room has very few treasures, which shows me that I need to spend more time in there. I'm not a musical person, but that's in the natural, there are no limits to what I am in the spiritual. Unfortunately, I've fallen into the physical mentality that *what I lack physically I lack spiritually*, which cripples me in what God has for me and cheats me out of all kinds of treasures. For example, my Dance Studio is covered with treasures, and yet I don't dance naturally. It took Holy Spirit supernaturally teaching me to dance, and in the same way I need to allow Him to supernaturally teach me to be musical. That means that besides asking I need to give Him a chance to do so by spending time with Him in the Music Room.

Did you know you have a Treasure Room? What's in yours? Proverbs 8:21 says, *bestowing wealth on those who love Me and making their treasuries full*. I once asked Jesus to show me HIS Treasure Room and what I saw took me by surprise. Ask Him to show you, it's pretty amazing!

You'll have rooms in your house that others may not yet have, or that are unique to you. I have a Sword Room where I practice using the spiritual sword Holy Spirit gave me years ago. And He has spoken to me time and again in my Dream Room.

My house has a Garden, not the American version where we have a plot of vegetables or cutting flowers but the Biblical version, where plants and trees are planted for beauty and to please the senses. A garden of whispering leaves and birds singing, and a place to walk barefoot on the grass. I have many treasures here, because one of my favorite things to do with Jesus is to walk in our garden.

Our choices are the only things that limit the treasures that fill our rooms. He desperately wants to give us treasures created out of relationship with Him, treasures that remind us of His individual and personal love for us. A new experience or understanding can open a whole new room in your house, all ready to fill with treasures from God. Filling familiar rooms with treasures is wonderful, but don't get so comfortable there that your other rooms are virtually empty, or that your house has limited rooms. Here's one instance where you can never have enough things filling your house. So start shopping!