I Live RENEWED! by Karen Anderson



PRAISE GOD! I am beyond pleased. Let me step back to four weeks ago. Within a day I went from a watering eye to the right side of my face being paralyzed. Talk about SCARY! It was really painful; blurred vision, couldn't focus, slurred speech, hard to eat, and driving was impossible. My first thought was, "I have had a stroke." This has always been one of my biggest fears since my accident in 1994. Even the doctors said I had over a 50% of being paralyzed because of surgery. Now it seemed like it was happening in a different way I'm TERRIFIED!

In my denial, I kept saying it wasn't a stroke. It was probably something like Bells Palsy which is temporary and curable. I tried an alternative approach because of no funds for a doctor. My thoughts haunted me that my career as an inspirational speaker and author were over. Satan can be so cruel. He used my fear to isolate myself. I didn't want anyone to see me like this, all distorted, so I stayed silent and played right into Satan's hands. Now he had the perfect breeding ground to put chain after chain around my heart and mind so the fear raged on. Instead of staying stuck, it was time to reach out and tell someone what was going on. The emotional suffering eased because I was opening my heart. Do you suffer in silence? Don't! God reminded me to focus on Him and my fear changed to faith.

I got a confirmation just the other day with the doctor (God worked it out) that it was not a STROKE but Bells Palsy. PRAISE GOD! He also showed up two weeks ago and showed me that through my weakness He would show His power. You see I had speaking engagements coming up and was going to cancel them - who would want to listen and look at someone that is not perfect? But God CHANGED ME FROM INSIDE OUT

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering.

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Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

I am no longer afraid of how I sound or even look. I don't have to be perfect when God is there. He has promised me that I will continue my career whether I am completely healed or not. No worries just trust because God is on my side. He cancelled my fear and drove Satan away from me. I now live "Renewed" and again I say PRAISE GOD!

PASSAGE: Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)

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