

The Carpenter

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire and he told his contractor boss of his plans to leave the house building business. He had loved his career, but he was tired and wanted to spend more time with his wife, children and grand children.

The contractor boss was sorry to see this excellent worker go and he ask him to built one more house as a personal favor.

The carpenter agreed, but it was easy to see that his heart was not in it. His workmanship was not up to par and his materials were inferior. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the house was finished, the contractor boss came to inspect it. At the end of the inspection, the boss handed the keys to the carpenter and said, "This is your house. This is my gift to you!!

"Ohh".... said the carpenter in shock. If only he had known he was building his own house, he would have done it differently.

Now he was forced to live in the house that he had built and none too well.

So it is with us at times. We built our lives in distracted ways. Not taking care of our health, hurrying everywhere, missing opportunities, overreacting and often too tired to enjoy the moment. At important times, we do not give our jobs our best effort or put our best into our relationships. Then we look with "shock" at the situation we have created and find ourselves in the "house that we have built". If we only realized it, we might have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board or erect a wall. Build it wisely! It is the only house you will ever build. Build it with love, built it with dignity, build it with respect. The sign on the wall says*Life is a do-it yourself project!*

Your life tomorrow is a result of the choices you make today!

