

**TIME FOR SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEANING
VARIOUS SCRIPTURE**

Introduction

SPRING IS UPON US AGAIN...what is known by the weather folks as **METEOROLOGICAL SPRING** began on 3/1 but the date of real **SPRING** is only two days away!

So, you know what that means! It is that time of year that many get involved in **SPRING CLEANING** around their **HOUSE** and in their **OFFICES** or other **WORKSPACE!** I know my **OFFICE** most certainly could use a good **CLEAN-UP!**

While **SPRING CLEANING** or other times of **DEEP CLEANING** may give us a sense of accomplishment when we do it, we know that it will only last for a short time and then it must be done again.

The same is true regarding **CLEANING UP** our **SPIRITUAL LIFE!** This is something that should be done on a regular basis, although none of us probably do it often enough! Many times I've talked about the importance of **BELIEVERS** keeping short accounts with the **LORD!** It's still true!

When we don't clean up our **HOUSE, OFFICE, or OTHER SPACES,** unsightly things can **BUILD UP** to where we dread the task! When we don't clean up our **SPIRITUAL LIFE** on a regular basis, we get a **BUILD-UP** of **UNSPIRITUAL THINGS** in our life that **HINDER** our **WALK WITH THE LORD!**

So, what do you say that we each take time to do a **SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEANING.** How do we even do that?

I. WE SHOULD BEGIN WITH AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF OUR PRESENT SPIRITUAL CONDITION AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE CLEANED!

(To make an HONEST ASSESSMENT, we usually have someone else intervene and help with our assessment. e.g. My wife is good about doing that with my office.)

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We need to look at **WHERE WE ARE** in comparison to **WHERE THE LORD WOULD HAVE US TO BE** in our **WALK WITH HIM!** **And,** to really make an **HONEST ASSESSMENT** we need the **LORD'S HELP!** The **BIBLE** encourages us to draw close to **GOD** and allow our **HEART** and **SOUL** to be **SEARCHED** and **CLEANSED BY HIM!**

James 4:7-8—"7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

Psalms 139:23-24—"23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."

SIN in our life that we choose not to deal with **CAN HINDER** and **WILL HINDER** our **WALK WITH THE LORD!**

And sadly, some of the things we have a tendency to want to hold on to are some of the very things that the **LORD** wants out of our life the most! I'm talking about **ATTITUDES** and **ACTIONS** that are **NOT PLEASING TO THE LORD!**

Ephesians 4:31-32—"31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

In reality, **EVERY SIN WEIGHS US DOWN,** but when we allow **BITTERNESS, WRATH, and ANGER** to cause us to hold on to **UNFORGIVENESS** and **BITTERNESS** in our **HEART,** it is damaging both to us and others around us!

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**II. WE SHOULD MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE CLEANING UP
OUR COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS AS WELL!**

Ephesians 4:29—“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” (This includes the “**clamour**” and “**evil speaking**” mentioned in *Ephesians 4:31*)

As our **HEART** gets clean, our **LANGUAGE** should follow. This is not just talking about using **BAD LANGUAGE** or **CURSING**, but also includes using **DAMAGING** or **HURTFUL TALK** toward others (e.g. **SLANDER**, **GOSSIP**, and even **DISRESPECT**)!

This even includes **NEGATIVE**, **PESSIMISTIC TALK** that contradict the **WORD OF GOD** and **FAITH**. And, it also includes **MURMURING AND COMPLAINING!** *Philippians 2:14*—“Do all things without murmurings and disputings:”

Luke 6:45— “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”

**III. WE MUST CONFESS AND TOSS (FORSAKE) THOSE
THINGS THAT ARE NOT PLEASING TO THE LORD!**

We know the Bible says we are to **CONFESS OUR SIN!**

1 John 1:9—“If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Proverbs 28:13—“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: But **whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.**”

But is our **CONFESSING** being done the **BIBLICAL WAY**? That word **CONFESS** means “**TO SAY THE SAME THING!**” It means to **AGREE WITH GOD ABOUT OUR SIN!** And carried to its proper place it ends with us **FORSAKING OUR SIN** and **MAKING THINGS RIGHT** with those we have **WRONGED!**

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When the **PSALMIST DAVID** harbored **UNCONFESSED SIN** in his life it was not a good thing for him! **In fact, it affected him PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, and SPIRITUALLY!**

Psalms 32:3-5—“3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old Through my roaring all the day long. 4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: My moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. 5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, And mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; And thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.”

Psalms 51:10—“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”

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**IV. TO KEEP THINGS CLEAN, WE MUST CONTINUALLY BE
RENEWING OUR MIND WITH GOD’S WORD!**

Romans 12:2—“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

One of the biggest areas of struggle for most of us is removing the garbage from our minds and replacing it with that which is godly!

(e.g. When computers first came out there was a saying about when the computer spewed out the wrong things and we’d start bad mouthing the computer and somebody would say **GIGO— It meant GARBAGE IN GARBAGE OUT!**)

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Listen, if we truly want to cut out the **BUILD UP OF SIN** in our life, we must feast our **MIND** and **SPIRIT** on the **WORD OF GOD** instead of on the garbage this world has to offer!

2 Corinthians 10:5—“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

Philippians 4:8— “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Conclusion

Hebrews 12:1-3—“1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

What the **LORD** wants from us is a close **FELLOWSHIP! HE** wants to be involved in both the **BIG** and **SMALL** moments of our life. We must open our life and let the **LIGHT OF THE LORD’S PRESENCE** shine into every part, and then we’ll have no need for a big **SPIRITUAL CLEANSING**. Instead, we’ll experience a daily, moment to moment refreshing of our spirit as we keep short accounts with **HIM!**

1 Corinthians 1:9—“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Psalms 56:12-13—“12 Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee. 13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, That I may walk before God in the light of the living?”