

Eight Ways To Spring Clean Your Life

Part 1

Introduction.

1. Millions of people every year do a lot of spring cleaning.
2. This is a good practice, but even a better practice is to spring clean our lives.
3. There are many things that clutter and ruin our spiritual lives that must be removed to please God.

Clean Out Pride And Replace It With Humility

1. It is so easy to let pride clutter and corrupt our lives.
2. It may gradually enter our lives to the point we are not aware of it unless we begin to examine our hearts and actions.
 - a. It may fill us because of our **wealth**.
 - 1) It is so easy to look down on those who have less than we do materially.
 - 2) There is a temptation to treat others as inferior or to have little or no fellowship with them.
 - 3) "Birds of a feather" tend to flock together is ok for birds, but not for God's children to have haughtiness toward those who have less.
 - 4) It led some to shamefully treat poor brethren entering the assembly and become respecters of persons. (Jas. 2:1-12).
 - b. It may fill us because of our **education**.
 - 1) Education is good unless it puffs us up.
 - 2) We should never disrespect others who have less education and treat them as inferior.
 - 3) It should not keep good men out of the leadership of the church, but it does occur in congregations with a lot of men with advanced degrees.
 - c. It may fill us because of our **accomplishments**.
 - 1) Some get the "big head" because of accomplishments - look at what I did and what I am doing!
 - 2) This leads to viewing and treating others in an inferior way.
 - d. It may fill us because of **what we are doing for God**.

1) Good works can cause us to be boastful and conceited.

2) Rather than this it should fill us with thanksgiving that we are able to do good to others.

3. God warns devilish pride is not acceptable to Him.

a. Jesus taught we must be humble. (Matt. 5:3: 18:3,4; 23:11-12).

Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 18:3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 18:4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 23:11 "But the greatest among you shall be your servant.

Matt 23:12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

b. James gave this warning. (Jas. 4:6).

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore {it} says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

c. "Haughty eyes" are an "abomination" to God. (Prov. 6:16).

4. It will help us clean out devilish pride when we reflect on the fact that everything we have is by God's grace and without His blessings we would be nothing and have nothing.

Clean Out Anger And Replace It With Self-Control

1. Solomon uttered these words in regard to anger and self-control. (Prov. 29:22).

Prov 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, And a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.

2. Heaven alone knows the countless evil words and actions motivated by unrighteous anger in our lives.

3. Paul warned against unrighteous anger. (Eph. 4:26,27).

Eph 4:26 BE ANGRY, AND {yet} DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

Eph 4:27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

a. It may not be possible to avoid all anger.

b. But we must not sleep on it and let it control us.

4. Christians are to exercise self-control. (Gal. 5:22-23).

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Clean Out The Things That Rob Us Of Valuable Time And Replace Them With Things

That Make Life Better

1. There are so many things that rob us of our valuable time.
2. Here are a few things to look for when doing our cleaning.
 - a. Too much TV, Facebook, internet, etc.
 - b. Lying in bed too long (Prov. 6:9)

Prov 6:9 How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

- c. Spending too much time in recreation
 - d. Spending too much time doing nothing eats up much daily and precious time.
3. Paul taught us to redeem [make the most of] our time meaning we should use our time for the best things. (Eph. 5:15-16; Col.4:5).

Eph 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

Eph 5:16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Col 4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity

4. We need to set a time to do the things that make us and others better.
5. Things left to chance seldom happen.

Clean Out Unbelief And Replace It With Faith

1. We live in a very skeptical world.
 - a. Some are atheists and others are agnostics.
 - b. Many others are very unsure about God and His promises.
 - c. They have little understanding and appreciation of the will of God and their purpose in life.
2. We are bombarded with things that diminish and destroy faith.
 - a. We are taught God and the Bible are myths.
 - b. We are taught faith and prayers are useless.
 - c. We are taught to trust certain people who claim to be wise and have all the answers who have little or no faith and keep changing their minds.
3. We cannot always change this, but this does not mean there is nothing we can do.
4. We need to pray to the Lord to “increase our faith.” (Lk. 17:5).

5. We need to get involved in things that increase faith.

a. Worship

1) God blesses those who worship Him "in spirit and truth." (Jn. 4:24).

2) We are strengthened by the faith of others in worship and fellowship. (Heb. 10:24,25; Acts 2:46).

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another;} and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Acts 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

b. Bible Study and reading and viewing things that built up faith increase faith.

c. Prayer (Acts 2:42; Rom. 12:12).

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Rom 12:12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

d. Doing good to others increases our faith and makes the world better. (Gal. 6:10; 1 Cor. 15:58)

e. Faith is increased by seeking to have fellowship with people of faith.

1) We are cautioned against fellowshiping the wicked. (Psa. 1:1).

Psa 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2) Paul gave a similiar warning. (1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14-18).

1 Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

2 Cor 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

2 Cor 6:15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

2 Cor 6:16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

2 Cor 6:17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAR; And I will welcome you.

2 Cor 6:18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

2 Cor 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

6. The Hebrew writer gave this warning. (Heb. 3:12-13).

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from

the living God.

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is {still} called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

7. Faith is a great blessing in this life and the life to come.

8. Faith leads to victory. (1 Jn. 5:4-5; Rev. 2:10).

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

1 John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

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