

SPECIAL KIDS CORNER PULLOUT SECTION



In Need of A Spiritual Spring Cleaning?

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

Spring is just around the corner! Soon the birds will be singing their sweet song and the flowers will be sprouting up with new life. Once again, it will be time to get out your dust pan and mop and begin the spring cleaning. Even though we have such good intentions and put forth a great effort, our homes are only clean for a short time. Spiritual cleansing can have an eternal influence in our lives.

First, Jesus must be our solid foundation. Jesus' main goal is to have a relationship with us. He wants to be involved in everything we do in life no matter how big or how small. If we open our lives to Him, there will be no need for a yearly spiritual cleansing because His Word will illuminate through our lives, keeping us spiritually clean. Without having a strong foundation in our Lord, we will become susceptible to things of this world and slowly the dirt and grime will accumulate into a thick film on our hearts. Instead we should experience God's Word daily to refresh our spirits.

Second, we must get rid of the dust of our spiritual indifference. Sometimes little specks of dust creep up into our homes. We don't know how or when they got there but its presence seems to be fairly harmless. However, it does tarnish the perfect look of that specific piece of furniture. We walk by every day and never detect the dust because it is so small until one day when it is very noticeable. Our spiritual lives can collect unwanted dust particles as well. We all have busy lives in which we must struggle with – work, family, friends, church, etc. – and can neglect intimate time with the Lord. We need to be on our knees daily in prayer!

Lastly, we must get rid of the grime of pet beliefs and traditions. I heard someone say, "I don't care if it is scriptural; I'm not comfortable with it." We need to be wary when our pet beliefs and traditions contradict the Bible. Mark 7:9,13 says: *And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.* We may need to get on our hands and knees and give ourselves an in depth spiritual cleansing like scrubbing the grout between the tiles on the bathroom floor with a toothbrush. Removing spiritual grime may be painful, but if it's not removed, it will erode the Word of God in your life.

So roll up your sleeves and get to work!! With Jesus as our foundation, the Bible as our road map, and the power of prayer, we can have a daily washing in our Lord. Nothing is more rejuvenating than being physically and spiritually clean.

Please share the story about Jesus cleaning the temple with your children. Jesus cleansed the temple of all the unrighteousness that the people were taking part in. It is important for our children to learn that God's house is a house of prayer and honor to Him.

Stephanie Sataneck

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Key Verse: John 2:15-16

(15) And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables.

(16) And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

While Jesus was in Jerusalem, he wanted to go to the temple. The temple area was filled with all kinds of people going about their business; however, these people were not praying to God. These people were not using the temple in the way God expected them to. As Jesus entered the temple, he became angry by what was going on. Jesus saw moneychangers, people selling doves and sheep and oxen, as well as people were buying them. Jesus knew he had to put a stop to this bad behavior. He found a long cord and began to drive out the moneychangers. He then overturned their tables and their coins spilled onto the floor. Jesus drove out the people that were buying and selling too! Jesus said to them, *"My house shall be called a house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves"*. Jesus had cleaned the temple and made it His House of Prayer!

Points to Ponder:

1. How did Jesus feel about what the people were doing in the temple?
2. What kinds of things did Jesus see when he entered the temple?
3. What kind of house did Jesus say the temple was?
4. Should we treat our church like a house of prayer?

Color the picture of Jesus cleaning the temple:

