



Freedom In Christ Church

Newsletter



The Essence of Growth

How to Maintain a Clean Home

Often times, many of us never learn how to properly clean and maintain our homes. We do little through the week and save it all for Saturday or our day off. Sometimes we allow living in a clean home to fall to the bottom of our list of priorities.

When I was first married, in my early 20's, this was something that I really struggled with. Never-ending laundry that never seemed to get caught up, dishes lined up on the counter, clutter in the living room that carried to the bedroom. I lived in a constant state of chaos and clutter. Not because I enjoyed it, but because I knew no better way.

When company was expected, sheer terror would strike. Panic mode set in. I would clean in a frenzy! The fear of anyone seeing my imperfections was unsettling. More than I could bare, really. I would spend hours cleaning in an anxious, wired state. Sometimes down to the minute, perfecting that one last couch pillow. There were times when dishes were hid in the oven and laundry was shoved back in the dryer. I hid everything, to maintain the illusion of perfection. No one was the wiser.

Eventually, that life of chaos and disorganization cost me my quality of life. I often told my husband that I wanted to live in a home that at any given moment anyone could come to our door and I wouldn't feel ashamed. I wanted a clean home. I just didn't know how.

It took several years to develop a system to achieve a home of the same consistent level of cleanliness. A home that I felt pride in. I learned something about myself. I thrive in clean and organized spaces. As if the clutter, cluttered my mind. The chaos created chaos inside of me. The messes made me messy. I sleep better when I take the time to reset before bed. I wake in

a better mood walking out to a clean sink and organized kitchen. My day flows better when yesterday's messes don't carry on to today.

What was I missing when I first became the woman of the house? Why did it seem so difficult to maintain a clean home? Routine. A systematic method. I learned that if I wanted to live in a clean home, I needed to clean. Every day. Not just every day, but all throughout the day.

Having a clean home required action. The other day, I was running the vacuum cleaner and making mental list of all the things I needed to do that day and revising the on going list I have for the week and I had a revelation. A light bulb moment. God spoke to me.

How often do we live a life of chaos and clean up our act for church on Sunday? I did. For most of my life actually. I did what I wanted Monday through Saturday and allowed sin to pile up and accumulate on my heart and dirty up my mind and my soul grew messy. Sunday would roll around and on the way to church instead of the typical secular music I would blare any other day, I would play the Christian station.

I would be mindful of how I treated my family that day, after all, we were headed to church, right? I would be careful what conversations I started whereas any other day that week, I didn't mind. When I was surrounded by people who I considered to be clean and holy, I attempted to be clean and holy myself so they wouldn't see all the sin and chaos I was hiding behind my Christian music and wholesome talk.

They didn't see the anxiety I was hiding behind my calm demeanor. They couldn't see the depression that was disguised with a smile. No one could see the messy life I was living. The double life I led.

I would go home and do it all again. Live for myself through the week and pretend to live for God on Sunday. I wanted people to believe that I was perfect and happy. But the illusion of perfection was never enough.

Just like my home, I learned, in order to live a clean and organized life, I needed to clean and organize every day, all day. Not just on Sunday.

The secret is, to learn the art of keeping and discarding. Discard all thoughts that are ugly and tend to accumulate and clutter your mind. Fear, worry, frustration, irritation, anger, aggression, etc.; are sent directly to you to steal your peace of mind and quality of life. Just as clutter bred chaos, negative thoughts breed anxiety and depression. The enemy is on an endless mission to dirty up your home. Your heart.

When these thoughts pass through, don't let the dust settle in your heart. Clean them up and trash them. Garbage does not belong laying around in your home. Just as our own dwelling, if we neglect to do so, an accumulation of cluttering thoughts will consume your heart.

Thoughts will come. All day, the process of keep and discard must be continually running. Keep the thoughts that are holy and righteous and give glory to God. Those are the thoughts that will make you feel good. Organize them nicely and neatly for all to see. Discard the thoughts that are ugly and provide no peace.

In the same way, living a life that is holy and acceptable and pleasing to God everyday will cut down on the cleanup. Sin is the perfect analogy for dirtiness. I didn't want to just look clean any more. I wanted to be clean. I want to live a life that is an accurate display of what is on the inside of me. No more hiding. No more pretending. There was no happiness in hiding.

I chose to live my life, every day, for my Father. I chose to do all things for His glory. I gave it all up, for Him. The music, the TV shows, the gossip and unwholesome conversation. I chose to give my life to God and live in a house full of windows for all to see His love in me.

Character is defined as who you are when no one is looking. I needed to take accountability for who I was when no one was looking. When I did, I found happiness. God gave me peace that passed all understanding. I have a joy that nothing in this world could ever give me.

I thrive in my clean home. Messes still try to settle in and pile up. The thoughts still come; we live in a world that is not our own. Temptations still come, as promised they would. I remain mindful of the thoughts I let stick around. I do these things to maintain the new life I have been given.

The best part is, I don't have to do it alone. The grace of God is the greatest multipurpose cleaner to ever exist. He sent His Son, Jesus, to wash me white as snow. He is merciful and has abundant grace for His children. No matter how dirty I've ever been, He has never failed to make me shine like new.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven."

Matthew 5:16

"And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast"

1 Peter 5:10

“He has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”

2 Timothy 1:9

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:23-24



THE THREE BAPTISMS

MATTHEW 28: 18 NKJ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

There is a pattern of three baptisms in a believer’s life. However, when the Bible references “baptism,” we tend to only think about water baptism. It brings up the image of being dunked under water. To be “baptized” means to be submerged, immersed, or dipped repeatedly. What we need to realize is that when the Bible uses the term “baptism,” it also uses it in the plural: “baptisms,” Hebrews 6:2 NKJ Of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgements.

The first is a baptism into the body of Christ. It occurs when we repent, believe, and receive Jesus Christ into our lives.

1 Corinthians 12:13 NKJ For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, whether Jews of Greeks, whether slaves or free-and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

The second is the baptism in water. Jesus lived as an example for all of us when He was baptized by John the Baptist in Matthew 3. Water baptism is not just a ritual. It is a powerful action that separates us from the world. It is a personal identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

The third is a baptism in the Holy Spirit. Every believer has the Holy Spirit living inside of them, but Jesus wants to do more. He wants to literally immerse and fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:5 NKJ For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Now, it is possible to be saved and water baptized, but not be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is a gift that we are not forced to receive and is not automatic, but instead we must ask and receive Him by faith.

When we are baptized into the body of Christ, are baptized in water, and then receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we are better prepared to go into the world with our greatest power and potential for the Gospel.

Pastor John Pogue



SURRENDER

I love, I love, I love your presence.....words from one of my current favorite worship songs! I do love His presence and nothing draws me into that sacred place more easily than singing His praise. There is absolutely nothing that can counterfeit that feeling, nothing that can make your cares disappear. As you open your heart and surrender to His peace it literally takes you to a place like none other on this Earth. I particularly love when we worship as a church corporately. The sound of the entire collective group singing in unison is the one of the most holy and captivating experiences I have ever witnessed.

I must admit that when the team meets to practice and the sanctuary is empty and still, we often drift away in worship and wish that we didn't have to stop and make the transition into leading. It doesn't matter what kind of day we have had or what issues were circling our thoughts waiting to pounce on us, when we lay it all aside and surrender to His service, we can watch and see His perfect work begin to take place. It is an honor to serve Him and a joy to praise Him. It comes from a heart of humility and desperate desire to be in His presence, to be in the safest place in the whole world where we worship Him with reckless abandon.

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I remember as a little girl that I always enjoyed singing. Some of my very earliest memories are of me singing to myself in an attempt to find comfort from the chaos happening all around me, Guess what? It worked! I could literally sing myself happy. I quickly discovered that singing was an easy way to escape and take control of my thoughts. I could be hidden away completely safe and secure.

When I was asked to lead worship at our church more than 15 years ago, this was truly a scary proposition for me. Of course, I loved to sing and I knew I could sing well, I just had never really sang publicly so there was some real fear that I needed to overcome. You see, when God calls you to do something, the enemy immediately comes to attack. He puts a full-on assault for your thoughts. He will bring up every ugly thing you've ever done and play it over and over again in your mind. I had to work very hard to overcome fear, shame, ridicule, insecurity, anxiety....and the list goes on.

I hate to even admit it but there were a times when I would have to ask my husband and even my Pastor to pray for me before I went on stage because sudden fear would hit me and try to cripple me from doing what God had not only called and equipped me to do, but what He had anointed me to do. There's a big difference between doing something that you want to do, versus doing something that you're anointed to do! Ask me how I know?

When you stand in front of a group of 150 people and every eye is on you and every heart is expecting you to take them before the presence of God, there is absolutely no hiding, you stand completely vulnerable and bare before God and it is at that moment that you painfully realize you cannot do this resting on your own ability, you must be in complete surrender to Him. You are painfully aware of your own inadequacies and you learn to very quickly keep a short account with God, taking all of YOU to Him, because you cannot fake His presence!

Our worship team is small, but I trust them with my life. JP Burnham came to our church as a young, zealous, 18-year-old and was hungry to do more for God. I got to know him through our Youth Group which George and I were leading at the time. JP eventually married one of the girls in our church, Carrie Gelsinger Burnham and we learned of his wonderful singing voice and the fact that he has been a part of an elite men's ensemble in high school. JP and I actually sang together for years with Sister Diane Engle accompanying us on the piano. This laid the groundwork for "the more" that God would require of us.

God birthed a desire in JP to expand his talents beyond just singing, so he began to learn to play the bass, accompanying Brother Tom Wells, our former lead guitarist for

nearly 10 years, while all three of us shared in vocals. JP continued to grow in his giftings and also learned to play guitar filling in when needed and then upon Brother Tom's retirement, JP stepped into the role of lead guitarist. I have watched him grow in these past 15+ years to become a wonderful asset to our team and to our church. If you have ever heard him play or sing there is no doubt of his ability. For me however, I am witness to his personal struggles and all that surrounds him, so I am most impressed with his ability to be tender and sensitive to the Holy Spirit and treasure the times when the "big guy" melts into His presence. As I said earlier, you just can't fake that!

I also become acquainted with Brent Hockenberry through our church youth group. Brent came to us as a quiet, deeply reserved 14-year-old who I could barely get a word out of! But don't let that fool you, when I found out he could play the drums and guitar, I got to see exactly where he poured all of his energy. It certainly wasn't wasted on impressing anyone else and all went into giving back to the One who gave him all of that talent. Brent is married to my niece, Leah Pogue Hockenberry. He has played with me for the past 13 years always adding that extra element to our team that takes us from ordinary to extraordinary. More recently, I have seen the way that Brent has been stepping up into a stronger calling in the ministry; very capably handling the lead guitarist role when asked to do so.

I admire the way that Brent handles every task set before Him. He never complains. He is always supportive and understands his role. He is a gentle leader filled with a quiet strength that should never be overlooked. God is procuring him into greater things. I know this because I know Brent's spirit. This is what makes him an incredible fit with our team. Just as the Bible says that Love never demands its own way. Brent too, never demands to be front and center, he stays in his lane, and waits, and when the Lord has need of him, Brent is prepared. The work was being established in him while he was waiting!

So, it's all about SURRENDER! As a team, we surrender our desires to what the Pastor wants. We surrender our agendas to God's agenda. We surrender all of our faults, failures and fears to you the corporate body that we serve. We surrender because that is how we are lifted up! Continue to praise Him even in your own private sanctuary be that in your home, in your car, in your office, at your workplace. Wherever you are He is with you! We love you and we live to worship HIM!!!!

Sister Lisa Pogue



Kidz Korner

Freedom In Christ Church offers first class children's programs for all ages! Baby Sparkz Nursery: Children ages newborn to 3 years of age - Baby Sparkz Nursery is available for our Sunday morning and Wednesday night services and includes a toddler class for ages 4-5 on Sunday mornings. Both age groups of little ones will be taught the basic fundamentals of knowing and loving God through creative and fun ways designed to keep the children's attention and make a lasting impact, all while experiencing an atmosphere of Christ like love and a spirit of excellence. Our Nursery Director is Sister Inayah Pogue, and the program teacher for ages 4-5 is Sister Lisa Daywalt. Kidz Igniting is our amazing Sunday morning service for children ages 6-12. Pastor Dane Pogue uses the creative and exciting program, Kid Nation, to captivate our children's minds and teach them the powerful Word of God. Kidz Igniting services feature a keynote presentation, skits, games and ticket incentives with opportunities to win prizes every week. Kidz Igniting is also available during our Wednesday night service. Our Wednesday night Kidz Igniting Program is taught by a team of four teachers: Children's Pastor, Pastor Dane Pogue as well as teachers Sister Marsha Williams, Brother Randy and Sister Sherry Miller, and Sister Debbie Best. Passion Youth Group is hosted in the upstairs portion of Pastor John and Sister Leslie's home for ages 13-18. Passion Youth Group offers a smaller setting with a warm and welcoming environment. We have air hockey and foosball tables and a hangout area to relax and fellowship. Pastor Dane preaches the truth in love to our youth and tackles the biggest and most challenging issues we face today. Pastor Dane's approach of not holding back has changed the lives of many youth over the years. Passionate, powerful, enlightening and life changing services, week after week. Above all else, Pastor Dane is dedicated to teaching the Word of God and how to know God, love God and experience God.

As Freedom In Christ Church continues to grow, so does Kidz Igniting, praise the Lord! We are building a team of Support Staff for both Kidz Igniting and our Baby Sparkz. If you are interested in joining this incredible team, contact Pastor Dane or Sister Inayah.



Did You Know?

- 1. Jeremiah is the longest book of the Bible**
- 2. There are at least 185 songs in the Bible**
- 3. There are 21 dreams recorded in the Bible (Most of them are had by two different men named Joseph!)**



Upcoming Events

On the Wall Prayer

Every Saturday from 8AM-9AM

Glorious

Women's Conference

Friday Oct. 2nd @7:30pm

Saturday Oct 3rd @ 9:30am

There is no First Friday Fellowship this month

Breast Cancer Motorcycle ride and Cruise In

Saturday Sept 26

Chicken dinners are available

Pantry of Hope

Alma Walter director

Loose change Sunday

1st Sunday of every month

WAYS TO GIVE:

PAYPAL @ FREEDOMINCHRISTCHURCH@YAHOO.COM

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GIVE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE. YOUR GIFT WILL RETURN TO YOU IN FULL-PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE, RUNNING OVER, AND POURED INTO YOUR LAP. THE AMOUNT YOU GIVE WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT YOU GET BACK. LUKE 6:38

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