



Spiritual Housecleaning

(June 2000)

Although it is only February, Spring is already tantalizing us with its imminent arrival and propelling our thoughts toward the many clean-up chores needing to be done in our yards and homes. What an excellent reminder this can be to give attention to spiritual housecleaning as well!

Demons can enter our homes via contaminated individuals and/or objects, or they can be deliberately sent on a specific mission. Whether we rent our homes or own them, we possess the legal authority to dedicate and claim our domain for the true Holy Creator God and the purposes of His kingdom. On that authority we can demand in the name of Jesus Christ that anything unholy depart immediately. If demons are legally attached to an individual currently in our home, we cannot force them to leave, but we can demand in the name of Jesus Christ that their powers be completely bound from any expression within the boundaries of our property. If you possess anything which was originally made to serve a role in some form of pagan worship, you might want to consider disposing of it. Even if it can be spiritually cleansed, it certainly would not glorify our God, who is a jealous God (Ex. 34:13-14; Acts 19:18-19).

Inviting someone who has the gift of discerning spirits to go with you through your home room by room can be very helpful, enabling you to identify particular items which need attention. You might be surprised at the subtle, or not so subtle, changes occurring in your home after doing these things. Many have reported a sense of decreased tension or conflict or children being less bothered by nightmares, etc.

To sanitize a physically contaminated area of our home, we quickly run for the bleach, ammonia, or Lysol. Sometimes we fail to realize that we have resources available for the spiritual sanitization of our homes as well. While the offending culprits are as invisible to the human eye as bacteria and viruses, we can develop a sensitivity to discerning their presence and learn how to dispel them.

Even if you are not gifted in discerning the presence of demons, you can create an environment in your home which makes it extremely uncomfortable for them. While we usually think of demons being the ones who torment people, they are also subject to torment themselves, especially in the presence of God. This was clearly the case when Jesus confronted the demonized man of the Gadarenes (Mark 5:7).

While the presence of God is obviously the most powerful deterrent to demonic activity, the power of His Word and His name are also undeniably effective for halting their agenda (Matthew 4:1-11; Acts 16:16-18). Therefore, by playing tapes of Scripture being read or music verbally praising God, you can cause great torment to any forces of darkness which are present, giving them tremendous motivation to leave. This is useful and effective at any time but is highly recommended before, after, and perhaps to a limited extent during, times of direct spiritual warfare.

One must also keep in mind, however, that when demons have legal grounds for attachment to human beings, they cannot automatically leave to escape the torment caused by these things, and in such cases the person may also feel the demon's torment. This has variously been described as feeling like "your

skin is crawling” or “electricity is coursing through your bloodstream.” We therefore urge sensitivity, as well as compassion, in the use of verbal praise music and the reading of Scripture in the presence of individuals who are known to be demonized or who may show an adverse response to such things. Sometimes verbally commanding the demon(s) involved (in the name of Jesus) not to pass on the torment to the individual or to be temporarily separated from the human being may help in these incidents. It is a fine line to walk in defying the demons while treating the individual with love and respect.