SpringCleaning: *NEW Thing*

Psalm 51:10-11, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." (NKJV)

One thing we all have in common: we all have a past. Anyone born before today already has one. We may not like it, and we may not talk or think about it, but each of us has a past we've stored somewhere in our 'Home'. Just like last week when we recognized we might have some dead and decaying or dying things in our lives needing 'SpringCleaned', we could also benefit from slipping into the shadows of our souls and the messes in our minds to clean up the corners.

For some, our past can be stuffed into nooks and crevices. For others, a past might occupy an entire spare room; a spare room that we love, the catch-all niche where dreams go to die and memories are piled so high and so thick, you can't even open or close the door.

Then, there is the hoarder's haven, where the past spills out of every 'room' in your 'house' and you can't even fit inside. The past literally has run you out of your very own 'home'. Forget inviting a new guest over because all previous guests from your past life have taken up residency. There's no place to put away anything fresh or new or wholesome because the past lingers on every shelf; its unloveliness draining all air from the room.

It seems impossible to SpringClean with your past in the way, whether it is spilling out from every seam or buried so deep, you have convinced yourself it is gone for good. Because we have an enemy of our souls, our 'Home', who loves to taunt us after he taints us, he will always make sure there is no room for anything new or improved; no getting away from what has taken over or no eluding a past that's chasing us down. He wants you so cluttered with your past that there is where your focus is fixed. He wants it gossiping in your ear, playing tricks with your mind, haunting your sleep. In fact, your enemy will give your past any new forwarding address if you consider moving on or leaving it behind. It will take up residency and list your name and address as its reference.

But, Beautiful You, your past does not have to define you. Unless you let it. It truly is...past. Past tense, passed on, passed by. When our Past becomes our Present is when we choose to still live in it, allowing it residency, accepting it as a roommate and allowing it to take over any extra space.

You can dispose of your past while you are Spring Cleaning. To do this, you take away its influence over your life. The only power the past has in our lives is what we give it; it can't hold you hostage any longer if you don't allow it to. You can kick it to the curb or take it out with the trash when you remind your enemy that he no longer gets to use it against you. Remind him your past was buried in the nail prints in Jesus' wrists; and fastened to the same cross that canceled your sin and bore your shame.

And on that day when you toss your past into the dumpster of life, you will find you have so much more room for good things, pure things, positive things, and for Jesus, the Redeemer and Restorer of all your enemy tried to steal from you. Look! He is doing a NEW thing! And it begins with cleaning up your wasteland with a fresh cleansing of His grace.

Is. 43:19, '"See, I am doing a new thing! Now! It springs up; do you not perceive it?! I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."' (NIV)