SpringCleaning: *Welcome to the Neighborhood*

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)

His greatest longing is to live in your neighborhood, on your cul-de-sac. Not to be weird, but actually, *in* your very home! It cost the Father, and the Son, a lot to come to earth, to mingle with humanity. True, God could snap His fingers. I mean, He is God of the Universe, after all, so snapping His fingers and *having the right* to require compliance, wouldn't be a surprise, truly. *BUT, He did not do that!* He birthed you and me in His heart. He conceived you in His mind; He gestated me perfectly and expected my arrival right on time. He birthed you. He bore me. Because He wanted nothing more than to hang out with you and me, in our messy homes and noxious neighborhoods, with our dilapidated dreams.

However, once you invite Him in, don't think He is just going to hang out as a guest. He is coming *inside,* all up in your business (and your busyness), and He is going to take over. Don't relegate Him to a couch or offer Him guest towels in your guest washroom. He is going to want to move right in, get comfy, and know some stuff. Let Him take off His sandals and stay a while. Ask Him to sup with you, and you with Him, and He will break Himself, and offer you *a piece of forever*. He is no ordinary neighbor or guest, and once you invite Him inside, you will never be the same again.

In fact, you will feel so empty if He ever leaves or moves out. *This God* cannot exist in dark places. He does not thrive where dead things live. If your interior, your 'Home', ever becomes too dirty, in dire need of Spring Cleaning, if He ever must leave because of filth you live in, you will pursue Him at all costs, to return, to stay this time for good.

Revelation 21:3-4, 'I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: "Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making His home with men and women! They are His people; He is their God! He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all of it gone." (MSG)