



## SPRING CLEANING

May 2014

*You will keep in perfect peace  
all who trust in you,  
all whose thoughts are fixed on you!*

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

A dining room table covered with a spotless tablecloth. Vase of fresh flowers in the center. Clean. Tidy.

I want to clean and tidy my house. I always should, but especially now with the sun shining through the windows. I long for tidy surfaces on all my furniture, all the messes of paper that have collected for such a long time cleared away.

Why do I have such a hard time applying myself to these chores? And what about the freezer that so badly needs defrosting? I'd like to have it clean, ready for fresh baking. I long to clean up the cupboard where I store empty margarine and yogurt containers which have, years ago lost their lids. What's holding me back?

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So much clutter and never enough time or energy to clear it all away!

“God, help me please to have the where-withal to do these jobs—even to find pleasure in the work.”

But there are other kinds of clutter besides the ones messing up our homes. Clutter comes in all sorts and sizes.

We might have physical needs that are hard to look after. Maybe our health is poor with no answer in sight. We might be on a low budget, finding it hard to make ends meet. These are all problems that clutter up our lives.

The toughest de-cluttering jobs for me involve those that affect who I am on the inside. It's the work required to clear away the burdens in my mind and soul, emotionally, relationally. We all have them. We need to forgive others and ourselves, let go of regrets, release sorrow and pain.

So many needs! And where can we go for help?

“Lord, please help us clear our path to make it simpler, tidier, easier to navigate. We long for a less cluttered life.”

We all long for the peace Jesus brings. How grateful we are when we know what He can do for us if we trust Him and focus on Him. Put on some worship music and He may very well take your minds off all that is difficult.

. . . And now, I think I will go through that big stack of papers in the dining room. With Jesus at my side it won't be so hard.

marja