

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, 'I will return into my house from whence I came out;' and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation." Matthew 12:43-45 KJV



When we clean up our own lives we generally do a lot of “removing.” Jesus does a lot of replacing. He promised “*life more abundantly*,” not less. He creates a “*new creature*.” Before the Holy Spirit comes in to dwell and quicken, all we have is ourselves and whatever demon spirits we have been prone to accommodate. Many of these spirits are obvious to others. To list a few; temper, melancholy, possessive, wandering, critical, gossip, gluttony, fleshly gratification, impulsiveness, and I think you get the picture. Some demons oppress and some possess depending on an individual’s resistance or acceptance. They do not present themselves as the devils they are, but come as tempting and insidious thoughts that incite emotional instability and impulsiveness. “*When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death for the wages of sin is death.*” Believers replace these old roommates with Christ, The LORD of Creation. The Holy Spirit doesn’t prod or prompt, He leads with God’s Word in our hearts. He cleans, orders, and redecorates. He pays all past-due bills and takes care of all new ones. He has all the answers and is always available for fellowship. He’s “*a friend that sticketh closer than a brother and will guide us into ALL Truth.*” He provides all the food and prepares every meal. He is so powerful that even Satan fears to enter. “*Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.*” Unbelievers, on the other hand, may be able to shoo their demons out once or twice, but they return and bring friends. We can never hope to maintain a clean “dwelling” on our own. We have to let God replace the old demons with Himself, the Holy Spirit. “*For it is God which worketh in you BOTH to will and to do of HIS good pleasure.*” Your “house” will never stay clean as long as you let demons of desire keep trashing it. You need to get the “housing authority” involved. As the old Chinaman put it, “The Resident Boss said so.” “*Great peace have they which love Thy Law: and nothing shall offend them.*” When God is in charge, through your obedience to Truth, everything is alright. “*He maketh all things new.*”

To mess up clean houses, the Devil’s adept,
No matter how nice, or how well you have swept,
Where the Spirit resides, the devils have fled,
God’s power will cleanse, and will keep you instead. ~CGP

Worries flee when we faithfully obey the “Resident Boss.” The Holy Spirit will guide us “*into all Truth.*” Worry is lack of faith; care over things which you have no control and doubting God’s timing and ability. Instead of stressing over solutions, we need to obey and leave care with the Lord; simply trust Him to take care of it. Things we do control need God’s wisdom to complete successfully. Don’t just give God “a room” in your life, the whole house is already His anyway! It will be a testimony to Him one way or another. Either of His judgment or His mercy. You choose which.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." James 1:5-8 KJV