

CHAPTER ONE

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR LAUNDRY?

Scripture text: Psalm 51:1-3, 7, 9b, 10, 15

1-Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2-Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3-For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

7-Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

9b-Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10-Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

15-O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Doing the laundry is a chore that we are all familiar with. It is a chore that cannot be avoided unless you want a smelly home. Laundry needs to be done on a weekly basis so that it doesn't pile up. Whereas we do laundry physically, God does laundry spiritually. Washing clothes is a process; you shouldn't just throw all the clothes into the machine and push start. The process involves five steps: sort, wash, rinse, dry, and put up.

The first step is to sort the laundry. Colors and whites have to be separated; there may be a bright color pile, a dark color pile, and a white only pile. In God's sort cycle, we come before Him and acknowledge that we are dirty and need washing; by doing this, we are telling Him to sort the sin out of our lives. We are asking God to wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, cleanse us from our sins, and blot out our transgressions. We want to be clean and fresh; not dirty and smelly because of filthy sin.

The second step is to start the wash cycle by turning on the washing machine, putting the dirty clothes in, adding detergent: liquid or powder form, and selecting a wash setting. The detergent is what gets the stains out be it dirt, blood, or food stains. God's wash cycle has two cleaning agents: hyssop and His blood. In bible time days, hyssop was an herb of many uses. It was used to dip in the basin of blood for the Passover found in **Exodus 12:22**, as a cleansing agent for a leper found in **Leviticus 14:1-8**; and in the crucifixion found in **John 19:29**. For our body wash from God, we want a deep cleansing of our heart, mind, and body inside and outside. We want the sins to be gone.

The second cleaning agent is Christ's blood. The blood of Jesus is unlimited and never loses its power. You may run out of the detergent and have to use Dawn dishwashing liquid or wait until you can get to the store to buy more detergent, but the blood of Jesus is ever flowing and overflowing. The latter part of **1 John 1:7** reads: **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin; so we can be cleaned up from gossip, fornication, and even lying.**

Ephesians 1:7-In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Hebrews 9:22-And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

1 Peter 1:19-But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and

without spot:

Revelation 1:5b-Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His Own Blood.

The third step is the rinse cycle. In this step, the clothes are flushed and rinsed with clear water. The clear water rinses all of the dirt and stains out. All of the impurities in the clothing are gone and the clothes are spot free. In God's rinse cycle, His mercy, grace, and love blot the sin out of our lives.

Psalm 51:1-Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Isaiah 43:25-I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Acts 3:19-Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

1 Peter 4:8-And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

So just as the dirt goes down the drain from our clothing; our sins are removed and forgotten. The clothes are now clean and fresh; we now have a clean heart and a new start.

Ezekiel 36:26-A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Psalm 51:10-Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 119:11-Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee.

The fourth step is the dry cycle. In this step, the clothes are removed from the washing machine and put into the dryer. I like to put some of the clothes in, add a dryer sheet, put the rest in, and add another on top. I like for them to smell fresh. Once in the dryer, you select the dryer cycle: delicate, permanent press, or just automatic. The point is the clothes need to be dried. In God's dry cycle, now that you are clean, He adds the Holy Spirit in your life. The old you is no more. You are now a new man.

Ephesians 4:24-And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:17-Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

As a new man, you have a new talk, a new song, and a new walk.

New Talk

Acts 2:4-And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Mark 16:17-And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.

Psalm 37:30-The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

Psalm 35:28-And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

Titus 2:1-But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.

Psalm 19:14- Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

New Song

Psalm 40:3-And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Psalm 96:1-O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.

New Walk

Deuteronomy 5:33- Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Deuteronomy 8:6- Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Romans 8:1- There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:7- (For we walk by faith, not by sight :).

Ephesians 5:2- And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for sweetsmelling savour.

Psalm 119:133- Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

The final step is to put up the clothes by folding them, maybe ironing them, and hanging them up. Clothes are placed in drawers and closets until it is time to wear them again. Laundry is now clean and put up.

What are we supposed to do now that we are clean? According to **Matthew 28: 19, 20 we are to: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.** We are to testify about how God cleaned us up and how He can do it for others. We are not supposed to be like the man who hid the talents. You cannot put the Holy Spirit in a drawer or closet for a rainy day. You have to let it shine.

So, have you washed this week? If not, what are you waiting for? Won't He make you clean? Let Jesus wash you with His blood, shower you with the Holy Ghost, and caress you with His Love.

Author's Note: This message was given to me in 1999. This was the first message that I know I received from God. He may have given me others, but I was not at the point where I recognized His voice. This message I heard loud and clearly. This message was the first time I ever heard God speak. It was the first message I gave in church. This message let me know that I was not being clean in areas of my life. God wanted to wash me. I thank God for convicting me and leading me to repent from all the dirt that was in my life back then. Won't He make you clean? Yes, He will! Thank God for His Grace, Mercy, and Blood!