

Jesus, Make Me Clean

It was one o'clock when I received a call from a brother to visit his brother, David, who is sick and lying down on bed in the hospital. He really woke me up from my revelation and ignited in me the Spirit of God to visit that brother who needed brotherly kindness and encouragement. As we reached him on bed indeed he rejoiced when he saw us walking across the room, and reaching out his shaking hands, we sat and enjoyed a wonderful time together.

David is an old man and a believer in Jesus. He considers Jesus as his Friend, his Saviour and God. David loves Jesus and he appreciated what Jesus did for him on the cross that He died and poured out His blood to give him a new life eternal.

David at that moment in the hospital was suffering from a disease causing him difficulty in breathing, and really he was encouraged when we came to visit him. He expressed his thanks to Jesus, His good shepherd who provides for him and the daily needs of his family; and how Jesus comforted him during his stay in the hospital. In our conversation we assured him about God's love for him and the good plan that He has for him and his family. Then we agreed to open the Bible to read the word of God. We took our Bibles out and we asked David if his Bible was with him. But he said, *"It is in the house,"* and we asked him, *"why?"* He answered, *"Because my clothes and my body is not clean and here in the hospital I can hardly go to the bathroom to take a shower. So how can I hold the Holy Bible in my hands? I am unclean to touch it; I have to wash my hands before touching the Holy Bible because it is the Word of God."*

These words that I heard from David reminded me about the situation between Jesus and the group of people called the Pharisees who are highly qualified in understanding the Law of Moses. Let us read this together: *"The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of His disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean", that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the market place they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) Again Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, " Listen to me everyone, and understand this: Nothing outside a man can make him unclean, by going into him rather it is what comes out of a man that makes him unclean."* (Mark 7:1-5)

Many religions do give much importance on the physical cleanliness like washing of hands and feet, removing hair, etc. they say, *"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!* But as it is written, *"These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. " (Colossians 2:21-22) "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* (1 Samuel 16:7) When a man stands in front of God, the Lord does not look at his physical cleanliness or his clothes but He is after the pure and the contrite heart of man. As well as, regarding the food there is no food unclean; Jesus said, *"Don't see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out the body?" (Matthew 15:17)* No food or physical dirtiness makes man unclean. *"But the things that come from the mouth that*

comes from the heart and these make a man 'unclean'. For out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man unclean." (Matthew 15:18-19)

- 1- **Murder:** Jesus said, *"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, do not murder and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment. But I tell you anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again anyone who says, "You fool," will be in danger of the fire of hell."* (Matthew 5:21-22)
- 2- **Adultery:** Jesus said, *"You have heard and it was said, do not commit adultery but I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* (Matthew 5:27-28)
- 3- **Sexual immorality:** *"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people."* (Ephesians 5:3) Watching pornographic views also makes the mind unclean and leads human to impurity.
- 4- **Thief:** *"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something with his own hands that he may have something to share with those in need. "(Ephesians 4:28) If your hand is dirty it will not make you unclean. But if you use your hands to pick up or steal what does not belong to you, then this makes you unclean.*
- 5- **False testimony:** *"Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious."* (Exodus 23:1) It is easy to say something untrue if you have wrong motive in your heart that you want to achieve. To be false witness is to say wrong information that brings injustice and deviate things from the truth. Malicious talks always bring harm.
- 6- **Slander:** *"Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor' life. I am the Lord your God."* (Leviticus 19:16) To slander is to gossip and to spread malice or hatred against a person. But the Lord in His word said to us: *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."* (Ephesians 4:29)

My dear and beloved: The Lord God had said in His word in the Bible: *"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I, the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."* (Jeremiah 17:9-10) The deceitful heart of man makes him unclean, but God has made a way for us. By believing in Jesus' death on the cross our hearts can be renewed and be made clean by His blood shed for all our sins and trespasses.

Let us come to Jesus in prayer and ask Him to make us clean. *"Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Oh Lord, forgive me of all my sins; search my heart and renew me. Take away all the dirt in me and cleanse me from all my transgression. Convict me by your Holy Spirit; cleanse my conscience from all guilt. So I can come always to You with a clean mind and heart to worship You and to adore You. Thank You, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen."*