**Cleaning House – Part Three**

**GOALS & GUIDELINES:**
**ICEBREAKER:  2011 was the year I…**
**AGREEMENT PRAYER**
**PRAISE**
**EDIFY:**

As we move closer to the end of the year most people are planning on big changes for the new year. This is the time of year when people focus on change, improvement, getting rid of bad old habits and establishing good new one. This is the time of year that we can right call the spring cleaning of the soul. But we have determined to not wait until the end of the year. So far we have learned **Anytime is the right time to make a commitment to move in the right directions for your life. We have also learned that cleaning house involves a lot of getting rid of stuff.** But getting rid of stuff is only one step towards a good house cleaning.

**Q-** In Luke 11 Jesus talks about an evil spirit returning to a house… What is Jesus telling us?

Cleaning your life out is only part of the battle. An empty life is not the goal. A clean, well ordered life, filled with the right stuff is the goal. The story Jesus shared is profound in this simply lesson. An empty home is an invitation. A good spring cleaning of the soul not only jettisons everything that is damaging and destroying, it replaces that with what is healthy and right. Urban planners have proven that an empty home is subject to vandalism and decay much more quickly than an occupied house. It is not enough to get rid of bad habits, you need to replace them with good habits. Removing wounds from your heart is one step, replacing that wound with forgiveness is the final and completing step. Throwing out anger and hatred is a great first step, replacing it with peace and love completes the process.

**Q-** Having thrown out all that was cluttering and damaging your life, what do you personally now need to fill your inner world with? {Push for transparency}

The Bible gives you a clear path of the order in which you are to fill your inner world. People are wracking their brains to come up with a self-improvement plan for 2012. They are thinking long and hard about how to improve their lives in 2012. Look at the list given in 2 Peter 1. What, on that list, is missing from your inner world? According to scripture it is possible to add these things, one by one, to your life.

**Q-** If you adopted ***II Peter 1:5,6,&7*** as your self-improvement plan for 2012 how different do you think you would be as a person at the end of the year? How much of an impact do you think those changes in you would cause in your circle of influence?

A final note… Houses do not stay clean. They require continual cleaning.

**Q-** How do we stay clean?

***Ephesians 5:26*** says that washing with the Water of the Word of God cleanses us…

***I John 1:7*** tells us… *the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Once your house is cleaned and restocked, make sure you are daily in the Word of God and often washed in the blood that was shed for you. Now that is perfect plan for 2012!

**<Pray>**

**Vision:** We are taking a holiday break from Connect Groups. We will be starting back up on January 11th. Enjoy the Holidays and be ready to make our connect group multiply in the new year.

Goals and Guidelines

1. Grow in relationship with each other
2. Grow in relationship with God
3. Grow in number and multiply

 This is a non-denominational meeting where everyone's thoughts, ideas, and opinions are to be respected. Everyone is welcome and we encourage all to share their feelings.

We will not argue or debate!

We place God's Word as the highest authority.

We all share equally in the ownership of this Connect Group*,* therefore we will all participate in hosting meetings from house to house on a weekly basis.

We will be committed to attendance and arriving on time.

When sharing, we follow 3 simple rules...
Stay on subject
Keep it short
Keep all comments appropriate.

We will build confidence and trust with each other and become transparent.

What is said in here stays in here. No gossip!

Last but not least… We will invite others to our Connect Group!

**2 Peter 1:5-8** **5** For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;**6** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7**and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. **8** For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Luke 11:24-26** **24** “When an (Evil) impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ **25** When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. **26** Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.”