

Getting Organized

By: Sally Hohnberger

"Jesus came to this earth to save us from something, what is that?" I pondered. He came to redeem me from serving a life of selfishness, sin and all my wrong habits of life. God wanted my home to thoroughly reflect heaven's order within and without. This would be possible only as I let Jesus be on the throne of my heart, my thoughts, and my doings. Would I filter all through Christ and let Him be my Lord, my Guide of life?

Then I began to realize the problem with shortcomings in my life was really because I was not in the habit of union and communion with God and heaven. I saw that it was natural to consult or commune with my "self" but then I served sin, selfishness and my old habits. Matthew 1:21 says Jesus came to save me from my sins, not in them! Jesus wants to bring me out of the self life, into the spiritual life in Christ. He will do that by bringing me into such a **close fellowship with Him** that through union and communion with heaven **my mind and my home can be changed.**

I desired to be saved from all disorder and uncleanness and determined to follow Jesus instead of my self. But how do I get organized? How do I commune with Jesus and let Him lead me? How do I learn to follow? I wanted my home to have that heaven born love which reflects upright order in the rooms of my house as well as the rooms of my thoughts,

words and deeds. As I was cooperating with these thoughts and thinking on them, I looked about my home and said, "What would Jesus want changed in my home?" I casually looked about my home, it was generally neat and orderly.

The responding thoughts from my Friend and Saviour went something like this, "It looks pretty good on the outside but I'd like to suggest a deeper order, a deeper cleansing and organizing of your home and this begins in your thoughts." Jesus was speaking through my conscience, my reason and intellect. His still small voice was a thought, it was not an audible voice, yet I sensed in my heart that it was of God. It sounded just like II Corinthians 14:40 which says, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

God speaks to you and me in this way. He loves us this much. Yet many of us do not realize or recognize it's from God and heaven at first. Jesus wants to come into such a close, intimate relationship with us so He can direct every detail of our life. If we will but cooperate by thinking on God's thoughts first, then our words and actions will be Divinely influenced and empowered to do the right. He wants to walk and talk with us as He did with Enoch of old.

That is what I wanted but I found myself timid and reserved. I struggled with what will I do, then asked, "What are your suggestions to me?"

"Everything in heaven is neat, clean and orderly. Every-

thing means more than just the center of the floor being neat and clean but are the corners clean, your end table drawers orderly, your desk, your windows, your cupboards, your attics, your garage, your car, even your gardens?" God's principles are exacting and go everywhere! "Sally, you have read about modesty of dress, I'd even like to help you organize and make upright your clothes closet, if you invite me to?" Has God revealed these or similar thoughts to your mind as well? God wants to help us that is why He reveals a need for change in our life.

"Without Me ye can do nothing" John 15:5. But, "With God all things are possible" Matthew 19:26. "I will guide thee with mine eyes" Psalms 32:8. "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" Hebrews 13:5. Be "a keeper at home" Titus 2:5. When God shows me areas in my home that need to be changed or redeemed, I have found He is right there to make it possible by His divine hand in mine. He begins by changing my attitude towards my task. As I cooperate in thinking, "With God I can do this and I will!" I find His divine power attends my feeble efforts that not only cleans my end table drawers, redeeming them to neatness and order but my attitudes as well. Cooperating with Jesus in this way makes changes lasting because they began with my thoughts and feelings, empowered from above. Then through repetition God can recreate my habits and as a result my character is changed. This is how the new ways replace the old, yet it is not I but Christ in me Galatians 2:20.

One day I was inspired that God wanted to **redeem my kitchen**. He wanted me to do it but it would be Christ in me, not me in the human will power alone. This is the application of Galatians 2:20. First my old thoughts and ways must be crucified. I must turn from them and this is done by giving heed to God led thoughts instead. Christ can actually change my thoughts, my desires, my feelings, my habits, even my old ways of working or responding, whatever I commit to His care! Have you experienced this as well? He can change all inherited or cultivated habits of thinking or acting. This is the redemption of the inner me, its the inside of the cupboard of my heart and life that God wants to redeem and transform. He teaches me this spiritual application by physically showing me what it takes to redeem my kitchen cupboards to order and cleanliness. How did God do this for me?

Getting my home organized began first with one room of my house. I can't handle mentally or physically, all my

home at once but God inspires me to begin with one room. This I can handle with Jesus. My kitchen is dealt with daily, so I thought this was a good place to start. Once I get that in order I must daily exercise some new habits of house keeping to maintain that order. Begin in one room, get that room clean and orderly with Jesus, then add to that room the next room, while maintaining the order of the first room. Follow in this manner, led of God, until the entire home, yard, garage and garden takes on heaven's order. God led me first with the overview plan in my mind, but still I had to learn to cooperate, to listen, and to follow Jesus in the moment.

I stood looking at my kitchen and asked God, "Where do I begin?" Even this one room looked like too much for me, I sensed despair at my heart's door. "Look to God's strength available to you upon request, resist looking at your weakness or inabilities," was God's suggestion to my mind. I responded, "Lord help me!"

The reasoning continued, "Why not just begin with that group of cupboards, you have time for those today." These thoughts are the "still small voice" of heaven leading me in the path of righteousness. It's God encouraging me that He is with me and will enable me to perform His will.

Making a decision is a vital part of getting organized. I decided to do it, led of God. To my surprise when I began sorting the contents of the cupboards and drawers, I had a pile of things that didn't belong there, a pile of get rid of or sell items and a third pile of things that needed to be returned to the cupboard. As I thought of the contents I decided it would be more logical for these stirring and serving utensils to be closer to the stove for easy access and more efficient kitchen work. The knives and peelers I'll put next to the cutting board. That made for greater efficiency and a new order of things. This cleaning and reorganizing of the cupboards and drawers became more involved than I first anticipated but oh what a feeling of confidence that this was the right thing to do and I would be happier for all this work and effort! The Lord was indeed leading me and empowering me for the task, and I found a cheerful spirit created within me.

Towards the end of this redeeming adventure, I became weary when doubt came into my thoughts and feelings. Self and Satan suggested thoughts to my mind as well. I must learn to discern the Spirit to whom I listen and to whom I will serve. The Lord led me to persevere by giving these, "I can't

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do anymore" thoughts and feelings to Him and Jesus freed me of these wrong thoughts and feelings by His transforming grace. My thoughts, feelings and kitchen cupboards were undergoing a similar cleansing, transformation, and reorganizing as I cooperated with heaven. By surrender and grace this was accomplished today. Tomorrow God and I would tackle another section of my kitchen. It was in this way that my kitchen became thoroughly cleansed and organized with Jesus.

I began to see that redeeming my kitchen cupboards from disorder began with redeeming my attitudes and thoughts first. Some attitudes needed to be discarded, some just straightened up. Taking Jesus with me was and continues to be **the secret of success**. The physical was teaching me the spiritual sorting of my thoughts and feelings. Getting them orderly and upright is a big job and maintaining them requires "little attentions often." As in the physical, so in the spiritual realm. Only God can clean the rooms of my mind and heart! Then I must give myself to Him as often as wrong thoughts and attitudes are recognized as disorderly and He was faithful to clean them with my cooperation.

Next I stood back and looked over my kitchen. God led my thoughts to think, "Are your counter tops attractive, do they give you a restful, clean look?" God wanted me to exercise thought and evaluation of the job.

I saw my counter top was too cluttered. So I asked a question of each item on my counter, "Does this need to be out? This one makes it too cluttered, I'll put this one away. There that looks better. Really this item need not be here either!"

This process went on until through trying different ideas I could say, "There that looks real nice! Only a few items are restful and attractive. Lord is there anything else that needs changing?" When my conscience was silent, my soul was satisfied and joyful. My kitchen was very pleasant to the eye, inside and out. It was redeemed by surrender, effort and God's grace.

We must first learn to **be led of God** and **to hear His voice** to our conscience. Recognize it is the daily, moment by moment, repetition of the new **habits of thinking and reacting with Christ** that makes the new way of order replace the old way of allowing untidiness.

Now I can take Jesus with me in this method of union, communion and surrender to my bathroom, my bedroom, my basement, attics, garage, etc. until the entire home is

neat, clean and orderly by grace. I give away or sell the excess that doesn't fit into my home, drawers, closets or cupboards neatly. I must evaluate the difference between need and want **filtering all through Jesus**.

Years later when we moved to Montana God called for another deeper cleansing of my cupboards because my kitchen size was drastically reduced. I had 4 sets of dishes in my tiny kitchen area. The reduced space necessitated me to reorganize to one larger set of Correl dishes which I bought with the sale of the other 4 sets. It fits nicely now. God led me to be reasonable, yet make hard decisions. One set of those dishes was sentimental, they were my grandmother's, yet I didn't have room to store them properly. You too will have your own trials and difficulties bringing your home into heaven's order but Jesus is there to help you and direct you. Follow thou Him!

Becoming organized is a good way to come to know God in a very personal way. As God helped me get my kitchen in order I learned many practical lessons on how God wants to clean up the cupboards of my thoughts and feelings. Erroneous thoughts, or bondage thoughts get tucked in the recesses of our minds and need to be discarded just like my kitchen cupboards needed some things eliminated, led of God. When God reveals these things to me, it's His way of asking, "Do you want this? Shall I get rid of it for you?" It is the power of God on the inner man that cleans up my thoughts, my feelings, my desires, and appetites or whatever, with my cooperative effort. Isn't God good?

Jesus says to me, "**The life you have received from Me** can be preserved only by continual communion. Without Me you cannot overcome one sin, or resist one temptation." John 15:4 says, 'Abide in Me and I in you.' Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character."

Bringing my home into heaven's order also orders a time for everything and everything important in its time. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Yes Sally, you need to **schedule your life**, your day's activities. You need regularity and you are the house manager. You need a time to go to

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bed, a time to rise and commune with Me. As well as a time to study, a time to be quiet, a time to think and evaluate. You also need to learn there is a time to speak and a time not to speak; a time to work, a time to play, a time to rest; a time to eat and a time to refrain from eating; a time to plant and a time to harvest. Planning my day with Jesus leading me is the way of divine success. Scheduling my life is a necessity not an option.

Putting my home on a consistent schedule with a little flex was a great blessing but at the same time it challenged me. It was best for me, my family and our walk with Jesus. I must admit, making breakfast consistently timely, crossed my former ways. You too will find some changes are easy and some hard. Take Jesus' hand, He desires to walk and talk you through each change. Jesus came to save me from my unheaven-like, selfish ways. He is my Creator and Redeemer, if I walk and talk with Him.

A schedule gives a time for everything that is a priority or necessity in my life. It's like my grandmother often said about keeping her home well ordered, "Everything has a place and everything must be kept in its place. It's the best way to live."

God cares about every detail of my home order and wants to help me. It is God that calls to my heart and mind to make and keep order. As I respond to the Holy Spirit's influence, it is the power of heaven that enables me to perform my part with a cheerful heart, consistently.

God does care about every detail of my life. For example, God has reminded me to check my refrigerator door and I find it ajar. He kindles my thoughts when I see something laying out, that I should put it away properly. When I am putting clothes in my drawers and its getting disorderly again, a thought comes, "A moment of effort to redeem this drawer now, will save you hours another day." God is with me directing, He loves me this much. I find happiness and peace when I follow my Saviour.

Getting out of order brings unhappiness and frustration. For example, too often for me, I would go to clean out the lint trap from my dryer too late and feel guilty because I thought of it yesterday but didn't do it. This causes needless work for Jim because in time he must get all that lint out of that long dryer hose under the house. I cried out to the Lord in frustration, "Lord how can I ever learn to clean this out regularly and timely?" "*I can help you*" was the responding thought from God to my reason, intellect and conscience. "You can? I mean you can! Help me Lord, remind me somehow."

Jesus prodded my thinking, "Why don't you pick one day

out of the week to do it, so it has a time and then do it in that time?" I responded, "That sounds wonderful Lord, Yes, lets do that. I pick Thursdays and I know You are faithful to remind me, You won't forget like me!"

God then gently reminded me that I must respond and do it when He brings it to my remembrance. When Jesus reminded me that next Thursday, I responded immediately to the thought for that was my responsibility in cooperating with heaven. I found that God went even further than that. One Tuesday I was working with the laundry and the thought came to empty the lint trap. My responding thought was, "But it's not Thursday!"

"But you have done a lot of extra laundry why not check it," God's reasoning continued with me. When I checked it, sure enough it was full! God is good and will be our constant companion to guide us through every detail of our life if we commit ourselves to His care and cooperate.

Won't you try God? Learn to recognize His voice so He can lead you through life to get your home physically in heaven's order, then take those lessons learned into your thought life, into your marriage and your child rearing. What do you want God to help you redeem and put into order? God is faithful to lead all sheep that will follow Him as their Shepherd. Getting organized begins by coming into union and communion with Christ our Saviour.

Power for Living



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