

A CLEAN SWEEP

By Laura L. Shaw

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through..."

1 Thessalonians 5:23a (NIV)

I used to have a maid that came to my house every two weeks to clean. I looked forward to her coming. So much so that I even cleaned up before she came so that she could clean more efficiently. HUH? This analogy to my mind as I pondered what the Lord is doing in my life recently.

He's doing a CLEAN SWEEP, that's what He's doing. *SANCTIFICATION*. For those of us who are Christians, we are being made holy daily if we are willing. The past several years or so I've been willing, and He's been doing some housekeeping in my heart. Lately, He's taken it up a notch.

When I clean, I mop the floors, I dust the furniture, I scrub the commode. But the maid would go beyond the surface: the ceiling fan, the top of the refrigerator and the mini blinds. She got the corners and the cobwebs. Likewise, sometimes we're busy trying to clean up the superficial stuff, such as our conduct and habits while He is interested in reaching the baseboards and ceiling fans of our hearts.

With sanctification, there's almost always some degree of pain involved...NOT pain brought on by Him, but pain just the same. I don't have any theological proof to back up my opinion, but it seems to me that the deeper the pain, the greater the potential for sanctification...a willing and humble heart are required, of course.

Here's what the Lord gave me to support His thoughts within my spirit.

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, body and soul be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it."

1 Thessalonians 5:23

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word....It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn from Your decrees."

Psalm 119:67, 71

SOOOOOO...what areas of your life are in the process of being "sanctified through and through"? Whether big stuff or small stuff,

you can bet that God is in it! It's all relative anyway, though, right? Ask God to show You what areas of your life He is doing some housework in...then ask Him to give you a willing, humble and teachable heart.

"Lord God, the God of peace, sanctify me through and through. Create a pure heart in me, O God, and in doing so, help me to draw near to You with a sincere heart...in faith...fully assured...And may my whole spirit, body and soul be kept blameless when You come for me. YOU ARE FAITHFUL, AND YOU WILL DO THIS FOR ME." AMEN.