



TELL YOUR STORY

by Shundria Riddick

We are often overwhelmed by the task of cleaning daily. I have a family of five and there is always something that needs to be cleaned. Always. As a child I cringed at the sound of my mother's voice telling me to clean. I still find myself cringing but I know that I always feel better when I'm done. Everything in its place gives a sense of order and relaxation.

Many homes are filled with articles of clothing, dishes, pictures, etc. that have been collected over the years. Even though there is a need to purge, they are kept. There is usually a wince at the thought of the effort and time it will take to go through it. The emotional turmoil of letting go of things they once held valuable is too much. In a cluttered and disorganized home usually you will find a person who is cluttered and disorganized in their minds. They don't think they are in chaos though. They have built a life around it. They tell themselves that the heaviness in the atmosphere is their normal. It's all they will ever have.

My dear sisters, likewise we have collected and held on to hurts, losses, failures, and hard situations. We carry them. As a result we find it difficult to access the freedom we have in Christ. We sit through sermons, Bible studies, and Worship. Due to the disorder, we have little room to grab hold to God's Word and His power. We've told ourselves that this is our normal and all we will ever have.

So I challenge you to clean house. Embrace the words of our Savior. They speak life and love. They give peace and promise. Let go of anything that hinders that!

I'm grateful that we don't have to do this on our own!

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication

with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:6-8

This is our Hope!