

KEEP... THROW... BLESS...

If things have gotten out of control and you're beyond the point of "de-cluttering"... then before you begin to "deep clean" your home, it's time to do a "pick up" day instead. This can be really discouraging, because it takes away from getting the windows done, the floors scrubbed and things dusted, however... you will be more distraught if you continue getting a room done at the expense of the other ones completely falling apart! The areas this will most likely happen are your laundry room and kitchen. Doing this is not in vain either, because you need to pick things up regardless. It's sparing too much clutter and mess to take over a room (or rooms) before you make it in there to really clean.

If you have found a room slowly (or quickly) falling apart as you're making progress in others, take a break from the "Detailed Lists" of each area/room and just work on the first step, which is to "KEEP, THROW & BLESS". Just doing that will be a big improvement, and will allow you to begin the detail work after that. If you are someone who doesn't mind the mess sitting until you get to that challenge room, then continue on, but our family may be suffering at the sight of a huge mess taking over the house! Also, you never know when company is coming and that always adds extra stress (and humiliation for someone else to see) if you're behind.

Decide what's best for you, but it's more than okay to give yourself a fighting chance and see some immediate results. People don't necessarily know that we've washed and scrubbed... but they do notice messes! Take today to "pick up" and tend to your home... keep your heart in mind as well and don't get discouraged. *All* of this helping to get your home in order!

Here are some steps for you to do to pick up the rooms in your homes... (Remember, you're not deep cleaning or even organizing... you're just getting things back under control so you can come back and deep clean and organize later.)

Before beginning deep cleaning, make sure you have a:

- "KEEP" box (to go through after you're done with the room... depending on the state your room is in, you may have to begin with "piles" first. That's okay. Do what you have to to begin. When you come back to deep clean, you can narrow things down further then.)
- "THROW" bag
- "BLESS" bag (for garage sale or to give away)

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR EACH ROOM YOU DECLUTTER... If you haven't needed it, worn it, looked at it, or used it in a year (6 months if you really want to be ruthless) than GET RID OF IT! Quit keeping them *INCASE*... Jesus may come back before you use them, so bless someone else and give them away!

REMEMBER: Even though you're not deep cleaning (as you'd like) you're still accomplishing a lot and it will feel better. Do one room at a time until you have every room picked up. Then you can begin "detailed cleaning". You will be ready for company, as well as not feeling so overwhelmed. You can do this! It will all get done... in God's timing. Be patient with yourself and seek Him while you pick up! He's in the clothes pile... in the pile of dirty dishes... and in your piles on the desk... He's there... call on Him for strength!