## **Extraordinary Times devotion**

These are "extraordinary" times that we are living in today. If I have heard "wash your hands" once, I have heard it a thousand times! I have washed my hands so much that they hurt! However, it is a necessary and important practice to continue during these uncertain circumstances.

We have been told to clean everything in sight! I've heard everything from spraying the bottom of your shoes with Lysol when you come in to wiping down all counters and door handles every time you use them. It is exhausting! I haven't been anywhere that I know of to get any germs, but the news is telling us it can even live on your mail from the post office. Not sure how much is hype and how much is real, but I guess it doesn't hurt to clean!

All my life I heard the saying, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." In fact, I heard it so much that I thought it was in the Bible! I was quite surprised when I discovered it wasn't! I can understand where the "old wives' tale" probably came from. In the Old Testament, sacrifices were to be a spotless lamb to atone for their sins. You can't get much cleaner than that! In fact, the High Priest had to go through several ceremonial cleanings to be deemed "clean" to enter the Holy of Holies. They even tied a rope around his ankle in case the Lord didn't accept him as clean and he was struck down. No one was allowed in the Holy of Holies except for the High Priest and if he wasn't "clean" and acceptable, then they weren't going in there to get him! As a result, cleanliness has always been associated with the presence of the Lord. Hence, "cleanliness is next to Godliness." It's not a scripture verse, but it comes from scripture!

All of these thoughts have been going through my head as I clean my house and make sure I am free of germs. I am human and I am <u>not</u> clean except for the blood of Jesus that has washed me and made me clean. Because of HIS sacrifice, I can enter the Holy of Holies and have a personal relationship with the Son of God. Last week I prayed the blood of Jesus over my house. This week, I am praying the blood of Jesus over me and my loved ones! We are not clean without His blood applied to our lives.

As you clean and sanitize, remember that the blood of Jesus has been applied to your life. He is your salvation and your protector. He is your healer and your comfort. You are anointed by Jesus Himself!

On a practical note, I found a cleaning tip on-line that you might find helpful. Here is the recipe and the youtube link:

You can make your own Clorox wipes using paper towels, Clorox bleach and vanilla extract (to make it smell good!) You cut a roll of paper towels in half. Mix 3 tbsp of Clorox, 1 cup of hot (almost boiling) water, and a tsp of vanilla extract or essential oils. Place the half roll of paper towels in an empty Clorox wipe container or empty baby wipe container. Pour liquid over the paper towels. Close the lid and let it set for 10-20 minutes. Open it up and remove the cardboard roll in the middle or the paper towels and pull a paper towel from the center.

Here is the youtube video you can watch: https://youtu.be/oBQwAIT1zV4