

Springtime at Charis Cottage

by Tina Marie Posey

Springtime is such a beautiful time around Charis Cottage! The daffodils are in full bloom encircled about our pecan tree, and the plum tree is graced with delicate, fragrant blossoms. I could stay outside all day, but reality sets in as I am reminded that our house is in desperate need of a thorough housecleaning. I must definitely get serious about cleaning my closets! I am quite the "clutter bug", but God has been so gently showing me that these "*treasures on earth*" rob my time and cause me strife as I continually shuffle items. I'm ready to let go and be set free from the bondage to all the stuff in my closets!

Recently, the Lord has also been compelling me to evaluate my "spiritual closet". In Matthew 6:6, Jesus tells us to pray in our closets. Well, I ask you, how effective can my praying be when my heart's closet is filled with clutter? Even the cracks and crevices must be cleansed of those hidden sins such as selfishness, unforgiveness, wrong motives, things I omitted that I should have done, etc. All these areas must be confessed so my prayers can be heard when I go to my "prayer closet".

Entering my closet each morning empowers me for the day. In Luke 24:49 Jesus says, "*I am going to send you what My Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.*" When I read that verse the Lord impressed upon me, "Stay in the closet until you have been clothed with power from Me." Wow! Each day I choose what physical garments I will put on. I can also make the choice to be clothed with the Holy Spirit's power!

I got so excited thinking about the Lord's provisions that I searched my Bible to see what other garments God has for me to put on. Take a look at the attire our King has made accessible to us:

All believers in Jesus Christ are clothed with "*garments of salvation and arrayed in a robe of righteousness,*" as recorded in Isaiah 61:10

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...and over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity," Colossians 3:12-14.

"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..." 1 Peter 5:5.

"You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy," Psalm 30:11.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity..." Proverbs 31:25.

Are you enjoying the spiritual wardrobe God has lovingly provided, or is your spiritual closet crammed with things that need to be thrown out? Would you be comfortable with someone taking a peek inside? Is it in disarray? May we all "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." Matthew 6:33, in the privacy of our hearts each morning, and stay in our closets until we are clothed with His power and all the other garments, too. Then we will really be dressed for the day. Aaahhh! Are you enjoying your outfits Designed by the Divine?