

Clean Hands
by
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This Christian writing deals with both the requirement and benefits of having clean hands before God.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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Clean Hands

“Wash your hands before dinner” is a phrase most of us have heard growing up spoken by either our Mom or Dad. We often see signs in bathrooms of restaurants saying “employees must wash their hands before returning to work.” We are raised to be careful to ensure that we have “clean hands.”

Many people carry and use small containers of “hand sanitizer” to clean their hands when they are away from home. Growing up, we have so frequently been asked if we have cleaned our hands, that for many it has become “second nature” to wash their hands often. This is a habit that we can grow accustomed to of trying to have clean hands, and just like we need to have clean hands in our physical body, our spiritual man needs clean hands as well. This writing will help you to have clean hands before God.

The Benefits Of Having Clean Hands

The child who comes to the dinner table and is questioned if they have clean hands learns an important lesson of sanitation and controlling diseases. Washing one’s hands is vital to removing dead skin, contaminants and disease causing microbes.

With all the things our hands and our other body parts come into contact with, we need to be extra careful to get rid of anything that would try to cause sickness or disease, otherwise we might spread it via contact to others around us. Think of all the people you touch directly through physical contact such as handshakes each day, and also everything you touch that another person may pick up or touch as well.

All it takes is one person carrying a disease to infect and contaminate a larger group of people around them. We must all have clean hands, so that we protect ourselves and others from touching anything that is improper.

Having Clean Hands Before God

“The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to **the cleanness of my hands** hath he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.” Psalm 18:20-21 (also recorded at 2 Samuel 22:21-22).

“He that **hath clean hands, and a pure heart**; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall **receive the blessing from the LORD**, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” Psalm 24:4-5.

“Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to **the cleanness of my hands** in his eyesight.” Psalm 18:24.

The Lord will reward you according to the measure of His Righteousness that you allow to flow in your life. Since our righteousness is as filthy rags before the Lord, we need His righteousness flowing in us and also out from us touching others. We must not have unclean hands or we may be spreading disease and sickness to others of a spiritual nature. His righteousness has no place where there is sin!

Having unclean hands means that we are doing things that are not pleasing to the Lord. We may be stealing, lying or engaging in any manner of sin. Our hands get stained with sin before God, and only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away the uncleanness of sins. We need clean, sinless hands before God.

Beware Of The Disease Of All Manner Of Sins

Just like our physical hands can become contaminated if we touch something wrong, so our spiritual life and hands become contaminated through sin. If we aren't careful, we can spread the disease of sin to others through our words and actions.

Many Christians don't fully realize that God is requiring them to live a life here and now as an example to Him and to others. People are watching you, and so is God. If you think you can get away with sin or cheating another, you are deceiving yourself! Examine your life, and right any wrongs of theft or deceit.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Galatians 6:7-8.

“For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. *It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:30-31.

God wants us to be holy as He is holy. Apart from Him we are nothing, but with Him we can accomplish all things. It is only with His help that we may accomplish this lofty goal of being holy. See my writing *Radiance Requires Relinquishment* for more help in getting rid of all manner of sin.

Don't Touch It

A Christian has no business touching certain things and people. Imagine how much trouble a person would get in if he physically touched everyone he came into contact with. Some people may find that a person's "touching" of them inappropriate. Not everyone wants to be physically touched by strangers!

Likewise, there are many situations and things that a child of God has no business touching or being engaged in. Anything that serves to separate a person from God is sin (to them). Everyone has a different tolerance to being sucked into sinful activities and situations, and we must be wise to avoid things and circumstances that will give birth to sin in us. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us avoid all things that would cause us to sin and become separated from God.

If you know that you have a weakness to sin if you are around a certain person, then avoid the person at all costs! If you are susceptible to a particular sin, then do not place yourself in an environment or situation that might lead you to engage in any sinful thought or behavior.

Imparting Sin And Wrong Things

Just as you can spread disease with unwashed, unclean hands, so can you also spread sin to others if you physically touch them or impart things into their lives when you are not spiritually pure before God. Be careful of who physically touches you, as well as who you allow to teach you or otherwise speak words into your life. Touching can impart evil spirits from one person to another.

“Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.” 1 Timothy 5:22.

I have a serious issue with the greeting custom of shaking hands with people. Not only is it unsanitary, as you don't know where a person's hands have been before they touch you, but also it is possible that they can impart spirits on you with the handshake. I have had to “shake off” evil spirits on numerous occasions after people shook my hand. I didn't want to be rude and refuse to shake hands with people, but have now found it is easier to just avoid the custom of handshakes to avoid potential problems.

“*Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.” 1 Chronicles 16:22; Psalm 105:15.

You can do harm to people when you touch them if you impart disease, sickness, or evil spirits to them. Be careful of what teachings and words you speak into the lives of others as well. A person can impart or encourage sin in another. Virginity and innocence are gifts given by God to protect a person from being touched by wrong people, things and ideas. We should not try to pollute the lives of others with our sins.

We need to have clean hands in our dealing with all people, especially those in the household of faith.

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10.

God Is Seeking A People With Clean Hands Who Are Blameless Before Him

“Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28.

The Master is calling all to repentance. Jesus wants us to have clean hands and walk softly before Him. Only when we can truly know, honor and reverence Him will He be pleased with our Christian walk. Part of honoring and reverencing Him is treating ourselves and others fairly. If we lie to others or steal from them, what good are we? How do we reflect back on Him?

We are deceived if we can think we can honor God with our words and songs, but then with our actions do things that cause us to have the sin of unclean hands and hearts. We must guard our thoughts also.

“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:8-9.

“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: **That ye may be blameless and harmless**, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the

world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” Philippians 2:14-16.

Having clean hands before God requires that you be blameless before Him. Jesus Christ gives you the power to overcome all temptations and sins that this world and Satan may try to throw at you. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13.

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17.

Without Spot Or Wrinkle

Just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:26-27, we must cleanse our hands, hearts, minds and mouth so they are acceptable unto Him. Only through Christ’s blood may we be properly washed from our sins, so that we may be found without spot or wrinkle. We must “put on Christ” (Romans 13:14, Galatians 3:27) in every area of our life.

“And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.” Romans 13:11-14.

“Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” 2 Peter 3:14.

A Call For Clean Hands

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath **clean hands**, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” Psalm 24:3-5.

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners**; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” James 4:8.

God is calling all of us to have clean hands before Him. When we learn to be careful to conduct our lives in a manner pleasing to Him, then we will experience the full measure of freedom and joy he desires for us to walk in. We must have clean hands in our dealings with God and our dealings with all men.