

The Blameless House

King David proclaimed, “I will walk in my house with a blameless heart.” Psalm 101:2. This short phrase, tucked away in the Old Testament, teaches that our daily walks with God begin inside our homes. I do not know about you; but this teaching challenges my heart because the real me comes out when the doors are closed and the shades are drawn. These are times when I think no one else is looking. In public, I find it easy to wear a mask portraying, “I am spiritual,” or “I have it all together.” However, the real spiritual tests come outside the public eye---the moments when we have no patience, our resolve becomes weak, and the situations of life seem overwhelming.

A few years ago, I was caught in one of those moments. Life was busy--- too busy. I was a wife, a mom of two active boys, a church staff member, and beginning a speaking ministry for women. My days were too short to complete all the “to do’s” on my list. As a result, I lived my life just trying to survive.

One evening, I frantically tried to complete a speaking outline for an upcoming event. My husband, Jay, was gone. My boys, Jake and Andrew, were running around the house, and the dishes from dinner were still on the table. I had so much to do and I did not know where to begin.

I told my boys, “Watch TV and do not fight.” The boys obeyed and I started working on the speaking outline. As I worked, time quickly passed. I looked up from my computer and noticed the time read 9:00pm. This surprised me since my boys should have been in bed by 8:30. Immediately, I went into drill sergeant mode. I told the boys we have to take a bath, brush our teeth, say our prayers, and go to sleep as soon as possible.

I put the boys in the bathtub and told them there was no time to play. They could talk quietly while I went and picked up their towels. I quickly walked across the house to find their towels and returned to wash the boys. As I stepped inside the door, I discovered two inches of water on the bathroom floor. I could not believe it! Immediately, I took the boys out of the tub and asked them what happened. Jake said, “Mom we made up a

game and I won!” That did not impress me. In fact, I got very angry. I gave the boys a lecture, put them on their beds, and cleaned up the mess.

Once the water was dry, I went into each room and told the boys how upset I was and that they needed to put on their pajamas and go to bed. That night we had no prayers, no snuggles, and no tucks. Just a quick good night.

I took a few minutes to shake off my anger and returned to my computer to complete the outline. As I typed, the Lord spoke to my heart. “Andrea when you act like that do you think they have any idea that I make a difference in your life?” The question took me by surprise and became a life-changing question. Do the people who live inside my home know that Jesus makes a real difference in my life? I fell to my knees and asked the Lord to forgive me. I then returned to my boys’ room and asked for their forgiveness as well.

Not long after this event, I read Psalm 101:2. The verse spoke directly to how I should walk inside my home. I am to be blameless. The word blameless used in this passage means **innocence and integrity**. These words further clarify how I should live. Very simply I want my “no” to mean “no” and my “yes” to mean “yes.” I want to have no hidden agendas, no behind the back moves, and no secrets. Why? Because the way I live inside my home allows my husband and my children to see that Jesus makes a real difference in my life.

How about you? Do the people inside your home know that Jesus makes a real difference in your life? If not, take heart, you have the gift of this day. I challenge you to use your time today to demonstrate Jesus’ love to your family.

Let’s pray. “Dear Lord we praise You for You are worthy of our praise. Lord forgive us for the times we fail to demonstrate your love to the ones we love the most. Lord help us this day to focus on you. May those around us see that you make a real difference in our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”