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COLLECTING THINGS

Many of you that are reading this collect things. You may not think of it that way, but you do. Some collect pictures of lighthouses and have lighthouses in their home and pictures on the wall. Others like frogs and have frogs in their yard and have little frog nic nacs. Some collect coins, while others collect stamps. Some have a collection of dogs and cats that fill up their homes. There are so many diverse things that are collected. Most of them take work to keep them up and in good condition.

There are some other things that are collected too. Some good things collected are the fruit of the spirit which include love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. These are the best things that we can “collect” and maintain in our lives.

Then there are things that we collect that we really should not collect. They would include anger, wrath, evil speaking, gossip, hatred, murder, lies and more of the like. These things will eventually destroy us if we continue to “keep the collection”.

Just like in the natural we have to dust things off and get rid of broken things, we have to do the same with these spiritual collections. Some spiritual collections need to be trashed because they represent brokenness and if we continue to use these collections we stay in the past. Some other things need to be destroyed because they have made us become bitter. Some need to be destroyed so someone else doesn't find them and take the “collection” into their lives. Whatever the things are, you must make the choice to keep them or not.

Having been involved with a thrift for many years, there was so much “stuff” that had collected. When we closed it, there must have been 100 screwdrivers, screws, cables, among other things. They were saved at different times because we thought we might need them “someday”. Then, some were lost or misplaced in the “mess” of business. Sorting through tons of clothing and other miscellaneous items was quite a chore, but it felt so good to “get rid” of things that weren't needed. We donated much of it to other thrift shops. Now they had the “collection.”

I suggest you take an inventory of “your collections” and decide what is good to keep and what needs to be gone. I guarantee that your life will be a lot freer when you let go of the bad and keep the good. One day God will “collect” his saints from one end of Heaven to another. We must be free of spiritual baggage to receive the rewards that He wants to bestow on us. It is better to take care of it now than to have our works burned because we held on to the wrong things. As the saying goes, Let go, and let God. It applies in the things we have collected in our lives.