

Thought of the day: Don't let worries get you down...even Moses started out as a basket case!

THE TALE OF THE EMPTY CLOSET!

Sitting at the computer one day, writing out my BIO for an Aglow meeting in Baker City, Oregon and asking God what He would have me share, I leaned back in the chair to relax for a moment when suddenly I had a vision. I saw before me a closet door. It was wooden and quite large. I felt the Lord say *“Daughter, step forward and open the door.”*

I'm thinking, *“Lord, what's up with this? It's just an ordinary looking closet door! You know, nothing fancy, no inlaid sparkling jewels or golden nuggets, no fancy marble designs or 8 foot warrior angels guarding it, nothings spectacular about the door what so ever, just an ordinary wooden closet door.”* So, not expecting much I stepped toward the door and pulling on the wooden handle, opened the door.

I took a quick step backwards, as a glowing, brilliant gold cloud of light emanating from center of the closet nearly blinded me. Blinking hard, I looked away, but immediately my eyes were drawn back toward the light. When my eyes focused, I saw hanging in the center of the closet totally encased in the light, the most amazing garment.

Heart pounding, I moved closer and peered intently at the garment. It was a combination of blended gold and silver colors. The colors intricately intertwined together throughout the material. The garment seemed to have little or no perceptible weight; so light as to resemble air and was simple in design. The lines of the garment fell in graceful folds that seemed to flow one into the other. It was breath taking to behold.

Jesus then said *“All can wear the garment—one size fits all!”*

The bodice caught and held my eyes. The word LOVE had been stitched upon the bodice in a fascinating design that you knew was not created by human hands. The stitching was in decorative gold—exquisite, elegant, yet simple and pleasing to the eye. It was truly the most beautiful garment I had ever seen.

I whispered, *“Oh, Lord, is it mine?”*

“Yes, daughter, it can be. It is the undergarment of My love? You wear it under your outer clothing at all times, BUT, are you willing to pay the price to wear it?”

“Price! What price?” I cried out, as I'm pulling the garment over my head. *“Wow! It really does fit!”*

“Child, do you even know what clothes are hanging there? You thought the closet was empty, but it isn’t. Look again my daughter. In order to WEAR the LOVE garment you must clean out your closet. That’s the PRICE I am asking of you and you’ll understand more as we go along.”

The garment was all I saw when I first opened the door; it held my attention, but peering again into the closet, I saw clothes hanging on each side of the undergarment. They had been pushed to the side, out of sight, and were barely visible in the semidarkness.

“Oh yes, now I see them, but what does this mean? What am I supposed to do with them?”

“Child it is time to clean out your closet! Some clothes will go nicely with your undergarment of love. Those you will keep, but other clothing you must choose to get rid of; throw away. They will no longer fit over your new undergarment of Love. They will hinder you, be an ill fit and will cause you great discomfort. Child, know this, that what you wear affects your everyday life.”

“Oh no, Lord, I groaned, “This is going to be such a huge job, it will take me forever! I hate cleaning out my closet. I always put it off! Too many decisions and I end up frustrated and putting the clothes back in the closet anyway.”

“Yes, daughter, I know, but this is something I am asking you to do! It will be of great benefit, if you obey. Come on, let’s get started.”

Everything within me was resisting the idea, so I said, *“Besides, how in the world will I know what to keep and what to throw away? It’s just too much! I can’t do it!”*

“Child, reach into the closet. Take each garment out one by one. Don’t be in a hurry, this will take some time. We (I loved the “WE” bit) must get started. I’ll help you, we’ll do it together. Look closely at each article of clothing and you’ll see a tiny tag attached inside; the tag will be your guide; KEEP or TOSS.”

Knowing I needed to do it even though my heels were somewhat dug in, I said, *“Okay Lord, let’s do it!”*

I pulled out clothes that I knew didn’t fit any more—unforgiveness, anger, rejection, shame, abuse, pride, lies and self hatred; quickly they landed on the toss pile. I pulled out clothes that were worn out—some out dated—grief, pain, losses, panic attacks, distrust, doubt, and guilt. Some clothes I had hung onto for years, not willing to give them up—to get rid of them—sins of the heart, control, offenses, unresolved issues, gossip, a critical spirit, jealous, envy, selfishness. TOSS PILE! Jesus said. Others I thought I had gotten rid of, yet there they were still in the closet—stubbornness disobedience, unbelief, immoral conduct, sexual

perversions; disrespect, rebellion and about this time Tears streaming down my face, I continued sorting through the clothes and thinking, *“This is too much Lord, I am overwhelmed, tired and ready to quit!”*

“Don’t give up yet daughter, we’re almost done, just a few more to sort.”

Heartbroken, I saw the toss pile continue to grow and still more clothes hung in the closet. Greed, division, drugs, occult activity, spiritual pride and deceit and now my heart is breaking. *“Oh, Lord, “I cry out, “So many clothes and some of the clothes aren’t even mine, some are borrowed, and some were left at my house by visitors, relatives and friends. I didn’t even know some of these clothes were still in my closet, I thought I had gotten rid of them long ago. Oh Lord, I am so sorry that I kept hanging on to these when you told me to let them go, get rid of them. I should have cleaned my closet sooner. How I must have broken your heart when I wore these clothes. Father, please forgive me.”*

Softly He said, *“Stop fretting child, this is not just your closet. **This closet belongs to the Body of Christ!**”*

He went on to say, *“My beloved children, My clothing store is open 24-7; all the clothes you receive from Me will always fit over your undergarment of love. They are custom made, just for you. You can fill your closet with faith, joy, power, authority, gladness, wise choices, and spiritual nourishment. My clothes are never out dated, wear out, and are always in demand. Add to your closet: prayer, praise, honor, patience, endurance and many more. My stock is never ending, so come and enjoy all that I have to offer you.*

My toss pile I gave to God. My keep pile is small, but all good fits for I have kindness, forgiveness, submission, respect, righteousness and *“Look Lord, here are garments of, love, encouragement, truth, peace, mercy, grace, faith, salvation and the sword of the spirit that will fit nicely over my undergarment of love. It is a good start. They do go well together, don’t they?”* I forgot some of these pieces were tucked away in the back of the closet and they still fit.

“What a great idea Father, and thanks for your help. Together we did it! My keep pile is tiny, but wonderful fits, colors, and clothes for every season of my life now hang in my closet, and there’s room to add more. Yes Father, I know! I must daily check my closet and keep it cleaned out. I won’t forget!

What do YOU have hanging in your closet? Is it time for a closet cleaning in your house? Do you have clothes in your closet that are ready for the toss pile? Are you wearing the undergarment of love? What clothes do you wear over that undergarment? Is it time to shop at God’s 24-7 store?

Is God speaking to your heart as you read this? If so, take time to sit quietly before Him and hear what the Holy Spirit would speak—then OBEY!