



Sometimes we say that we are going to have a 'Bit of a sort-out'. We go to the attic or spare room, but we do not really feel like tackling a big sort-out so we end up just tidying things up and maybe moving some things from one place to another. On the other hand, when we say that we are going to have a '**GOOD** sort out', that shows that we mean business; we are in the right mood.



What do we do when we have a **good** sort-out, or as I call it, a de-cluttering? There are several options that are open to us:-

- ** Keep.** Will definitely need again. eg. Christmas decorations.
- ** Keep with a question mark.** Spares. We already have one that we use, but, we keep a spare in case the one we normally use breaks!
- ** Bin.** Definitely do not need this any more and cannot think why we saved it in the first place.
- ** Charity Shop.** Too good for the bin. Someone else might be able to use.
- ** Memories.** The hardest. No good to anyone else. Very time-consuming because we sit going through them and reading them. Past thoughts and maybe a few tears. We put them away in the box again and do nothing about them until the next de-cluttering in 4/5 years.

TIME

Here are some challenges to think about. Does our time need de-cluttering? Do we never have the time to do all the things that we need to do?

God's time.

- ** Do we give God His fair share of time with our prayers or is it a quick 5 minutes when we can squeeze Him in?**
- ** Do we read a few verses from the Bible every day?**
- ** Suggestion - Do we use a commentary as we read to help us better understand the context of those verses?**
- ** Do we sit for a while and think about what we have read or just rush off to do something else?**

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Before reading any further, sit for 5 minutes and think about the above questions.

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Most of us live very busy lives and for some it is a matter of juggling work, family commitments, jobs in the home, etc.. God can easily get pushed out or limited to a very tiny slot. Maybe it is necessary to do a bit of de-cluttering of our time in order to give God what He deserves. Our argument may be that we simply do not have the time and that we will make up for it later – but 'later' never seems to arrive.



Can I mention something that I firmly believe is one of God's principles. When we give something to God, He gives it back to us – **PLUS**. This is true in every area of our lives. If we give God more of our time then we will find that in fact, we have more time to do other things, not less. I do not know how this works, I just know that it does. Things that are logically impossible for us are possible for God.



When our minds are too full of other things, this causes us not always to be in the mood to do a God-slot and before we know it we have left Him out of our lives for several days. One sign of this is that our God-slot becomes a chore. We do it because we feel we should as Christians and not because of the pleasure and benefits that it brings. If our minds are too full then this affects our spirits. When we are on overload our spirits are less receptive so God can be speaking to us or showing us something in some way and we miss it.



If you were to list the things that you normally do in order of preference, what position would God be on your list? Is He right at the top in the number one slot or has He slipped down the list? When we make a special effort to deepen our relationship with God, then He responds to that and does His part by drawing us closer to Himself.

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Before reading any further, sit for 5 minutes and think about God's position on your list.

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Jesus coming to the earth

We often think about Jesus coming down to the earth and eventually dying on the cross to give us our salvation, but, that is not the only reason. He came to live on the earth as a normal human being like you and I. He put aside all of His attributes as God for the time that He was here and became an ordinary person experiencing all of the same emotions that we feel. He constantly showed by His teaching and example how God expects us to live.

Mary and Martha

Luke 10: 38 – 42. When Jesus went into the home of Mary and Martha, it was Martha who was very busy preparing the meal for them. We read that she was 'distracted with much serving' whilst her sister Mary was just sitting listening to what Jesus had to say. Martha was obviously not pleased about the situation and complained to Jesus about the lack of Mary's help with the preparation of the meal. The response of Jesus to her complaint was that she was fussing and anxious about a lot of things, but that Mary was doing something that was far more important.

I do not think for a minute that Jesus was saying that the meal was unimportant; He was trying to show Martha that it was not the top priority. Jesus always shows us things and guides us in our lives by simple everyday situations. When we are so busy that Jesus gets pushed aside then we are too busy.

A Question: Are you like Martha or are you like Mary?