

## The Changing of the Leaves....

**Ephesians 4:23-24 (LB)** - Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be changing for the better. Yes, you must be a new and different person, holy and good. Clothe yourself with this new nature.

I love fall.... the crisp nights and mornings and the sun kissed days...the dramatic changing of the color of the leaves. Just today I was wondering what color of leaf I would like to become in the fall....red, yellow, orange...from the oak tree, the maple tree, or fiery red like the sumac. Which color would portray me the best.

I understand that leaves do not change their color in the fall, but rather they have that color always beneath the green of their leaves and when the crisp, shortened days of fall come the leaves get less opportunity for the sun to supply the chlorophyll that they need to stay green. It is then that the underlying color of their leaves comes to the surface. Wow, that certainly shows us how very important the sun and the long days are for the color of the leaves. Not to mention picnics, being outside and endless ability to enjoy long summer days.

And it gets me to thinking that you and I are like those leaves. God creates within us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...as the main color of our soul and our spirit. And we display those colors unless the coldness of anger, unforgiveness, discontent, loneliness or hopelessness engulfs us and creates a coldness within us and a shortness to the light of Jesus shining within us. Then our colors change, like the leaves in fall, and we appear as the color of a self-focused being instead of the radiant green of a purposeful life with Jesus Christ as our light and our guide.

So, what is the color of your spirit and soul right now? Where do you need the light and the warmth of Jesus to shine on so that once again the colors of Christ shine brilliantly through you? Do you see the change in you a process of change for the better in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions? If not, now is the time for pruning away all that is diseased or dead in you and I and to welcome new life and new leaves to our souls and our spirits.

**Prayer:** Precious God, how we thank you for your presence in our lives and for your love and light that nourish and refresh our souls and spirits. Help us, God, to be more like you, strong and loving, forgiving and joyful so that others may be refreshed by our presence and that the colors that we reflect to them will be of your love and your grace. Grant us strength and guidance to change the things in our lives that need to be changed and to praise you for all the blessings you have so generously bestowed upon us. Empower us to be that generous with others. Make us like you, Lord, please make us like you. In your precious name we pray. Amen.