

# Falling Leaves

*Posted by Bonnie Steinborn on Nov 13, 2015 in Flutterings | 2 comments*



Over the last few days Autumn's brilliant golden and russet leaves have been fluttering to the ground in huge numbers. They are lovely as they fall, but are also bringing frustration and hardship. These leaves not only cover flowerbeds and lawns, they clog drains, flood roads, and turn streets to slippery mush. The rain and frost complicate the situation. Yesterday a car crashed into a tree around the corner from me, due to lack of traction. Thankfully no one was critically hurt, but it could have been fatal. No matter how many blowers, rakes, brooms, or vacuums are used, other leaves continue to fall replacing those just removed.

There are other leaves that cling to their branches, wither, turn brown but refuse to fall. Only when spring buds sprout, forcing them to loosen their grip, will they fall, covering the new spring shoots below. Old leaves, falling or clinging, continue to cause extra work and heartache.

Today these falling leaves reminded me of the leaves of sin that *bud* in our lives. Often the young sprigs of *innocent* lies, gossip, jealousy, selfishness and materialism seem to bring the promise of happiness, future beauty, pleasure. or protection from immediate problems and stress. However as human seasons change, the expected joy and rich colors are greatly altered! Slowly their beauty vanishes as the storm of life batter and break even the strongest of resolves. Plans and dreams once thought to be brilliantly exciting are now withering, fading and ugly. When did those tiny, innocent leaves of sin change color revealing broken promises, destroyed hopes, sorrow and despair? Wasn't it just yesterday that everything seemed so settled, so fruitful and exciting. But now, nothing but fallen,

dead leaves remain, exposing tangled and broken branches.

We all know in God's magnificent creation, following the darkness of winter, spring and the warming sunlight once again brings new life surging through barren branches. The tint of vivid green will once again be visible.

So it can be also be in our spiritual seasons. Jesus died upon that tree 2,000 years ago, taking our winter of sin and death upon himself. Now we can choose to receive the miracle of His eternal spring through forgiveness and repentance. Only then will we experience His SONlight eternally flooding and warming hearts, souls and minds. Yes, His final season will bring foliage of living color and everlasting beauty.

Today we can not stop the rotation of our earthbound seasons, even if we wanted to. However, the spiritual season we are personally experiencing is of our own choosing.

Jesus is the Tree of Life and in Him true joy and peace are found. His leaves do not wither nor beauty fade when we are firmly attached to Him. He died to become the source of joy, peace, and life everlasting. Since the Garden of Eden we were created with a free will to choose our spiritual season. We can cling to His life and eternal spring or choose death and its eternal winter separated from God forever!

As we watch the leaves of Autumn continue to flutter to the ground, I pray we look to our Creator, the True Vine/Tree. May we continually welcome the SON into our lives, abide fully in Him, and celebrate HIS life in us today and forever.

Amen and Amen