

## The Leaves of Fall

I really like it when the seasons change, especially this time of year. It is during fall that we are surrounded by such astounding color. The myriad shades of red and orange hue are brilliantly striking but did you know that these colors are actually inside each green leaf throughout its lifetime? In the spring and early summer, leaves are masked by so much green pigment that we are unable to see the loveliness that exists just below the surface. Thus it is only in the fall that mature leaves reveal their genuine splendor.

The process of aging is a rather strange phenomenon really. Rarely is it said to be beautiful but what it uncovers, truly is. And just like the leaves, we humans are honed throughout the spring and summer of our lives. God uses all the bumps in the road, heartaches, and burdens to bring out our color and brilliance so that we can, without even realizing it, tell **His** story as we glorifying Him. Abba Father, author and perfecter of our lives, gives us human color in ways that only He can.

***Job 23:10: But he knows the way that I take: when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.***



So as you enjoy the change in seasons this year, take some time to enjoy the colors and as you do, perhaps, take a hard look at what is going on below the surface of your life; in your heart. I hope that whatever you discover, mirrors the indiscriminate love of the Father.

Let's begin with the color red: When I think about the colors of fall, red is my absolute favorite. My home is full of red! Red leaves stand out and we notice them a bit more perhaps. The color is extraordinary really. Red brings up the thought of passion. No matter where we are in our Christian walk, I think we all could do with a little more passion for Christ. And that passion should stick out in a good way – we all should reflect the brilliance of Christ and red leaves remind me of that.

***Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.***

Orange: The color orange is stunning in the fall. We see it not only in the fall leaves, but in beautiful pumpkins as well. Orange reflects warmth and symbolizes thoughtfulness and sincerity. As Christians, authenticity is a quality we should always desire to portray along with being warmhearted and caring.

***Ephesians 4:32: And be kind to one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you.***

Yellow: Yellow conjures up joy and cheerfulness and just makes me feel happy! I believe that if we aren't cheerful, others won't want to be around us. My prayer is that I forever

store up joy in my heart - to overflowing! For those of us who know and love Christ, we have tremendous joy and that should reflect out and through us constantly.

***Galatians 5:22, 23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, against such things there is no law.***

Purple: As odd as it seems, some of the colors we see in fall are shades of purple. And like the reds, the leaves we find in the purple family are also prominent. Purple is the color of royalty. As Christians, we are royalty in Christ and our behavior should reflect that. As followers of Christ, we should be remarkable people!

***Romans 8:16,17. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.***

And the last color is Brown: If we didn't have brown in the midst of all these bright fall colors, I doubt if they'd be so brilliant. Brown is the backdrop color that represents stability. It anchors all the picturesque colors we see in the fall. In Christ, we have our anchor. Others can see if we are living for Christ and depending on Him by the way we live our lives. It comes out in our actions and behavior. My conduct is a reflection of the One I serve; may I remain mindful of that.

***Colossians 2:6,7. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in him and established in your faith just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.***

All this begs the question: *What colors do you project?*