



Grace Snap Shot

"Viewing life through the lens of God's grace!"



Jesus In a Tree

Written by Art Henkel

Perhaps you've read the Bible account of when a short fellow named Zacchaeus chose to climb a tree, but have you ever heard of Jesus being seen in a tree? I hadn't, not until I saw Him myself, just the other day.

It happened when I was out for my morning walk, finding myself standing in the middle of a forest. I was suddenly struck by the breath taking array of autumn hues and colors that surrounded me. It seemed that in only a matter of days the familiar greens of the trees had been replaced by vivid yellow, orange and red tones. As sunlight hit the trees, millions of leaves seemed to instantly come alive with brilliant color. That's when I saw Him.

Oh, I didn't see Him physically standing on a branch waving at me, but He was getting my attention none the less. As I enjoyed the view of autumn foliage it occurred to me that I was witnessing something ingeniously spectacular and it reminded me of the beauty of life in Christ.

Have you ever stopped to consider what actually takes place physically for leaves to change color? Here's a quick little lesson. Chlorophyll is what gives plants their green color. During the fall, trees begin to shut down their food-making factories. Among other changes, the green chlorophyll disappears from the leaves and we begin to see yellow and orange colors. Small amounts of these colors have been in the leaves all along. They just weren't seen because they were covered up by the green chlorophyll.

Gazing at the trees, I found myself thinking that chlorophyll is very much like the dead-work, religious practices of many Christians. Without knowing it, one's occupation with trying to serve God through self-effort actually ends up hiding the spectacular life of Christ that is within. Unknowingly, many well intended Christians are experiencing far less than what God has in-store for them and the brilliance of Jesus within, goes undetected by those around them.

Over the past few years I have begun to see more and more evidence of the Christ in me, coming out. The chlorophyll of my life is being consumed by His life activity. He is living his life in and through me by the Spirit. As I've made a conscious choice to stop feeding the old law based hunger that once controlled me, I find myself desiring a much simpler diet, Jesus. The result is like that of the autumn leaves. What was there all along is beginning to be displayed in brilliant color.