

Good morning to one and all. This is the first letter for 2010 and *I hope all is well with you as I know it is with your soul! (3 John 1:2)*

This is the year of purification... a year where God is going to lay claim to your whole heart! A heart that is undivided, pure and holy. A heart that is broken and repentant. A heart that is humble and obedient before Him! We will have to let God plough our hearts with His Word, receive His Seed and carefully protect and guard the "land" so that we will produce the good fruit we were created for!

*So get rid of all uncleanness and the rampant outgrowth of wickedness, and in a humble (gentle, modest) spirit receive and welcome the Word which implanted and rooted [in your hearts] contains the power to save your souls. (James 1:21-27 Amplified Bible)*

*So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire.<sup>20</sup> Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. (Matthew 7:19-23 New Living Translation)*

A farmer knows how important it is to keep weeds out of his planted fields. It will crowd out young saplings, starve it from important nutrition and get in the way of the "Son"... and if unchecked, result in a failed crop! The only way to ensure a good harvest is to get rid of all the "weeds" from our hearts so that the tree will have the best opportunity to grow to full maturity and produce a great harvest of good fruit in our lives. That is how you worship God with your life!

<sup>22</sup> *The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is **crowded out** by the **worries of this life** and the **lure of wealth**, so no fruit is produced. (Matt 13:22 New Living Translation)*

<sup>19</sup> *but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the **worries of this life**, the **lure of wealth**, and the **desire for other things**, so no fruit is produced. (Mark 4:19 New Living Translation)*

<sup>14</sup> *The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the **cares and riches and pleasures of this life**. And so they never grow into maturity. (Luke 8:14 New Living Translation)*

What is competing with God and His Word in your heart? Worries...?, Lure for more...?, Lust for other things...?

We are not alone in this battle! God's gracious gift, the Holy Spirit, who now lives in us, is the Power by which we can have the victory! We must surrender every day to His leading in our lives and trust Him to guide us away from the things that will prevent us from bearing the reflective Image of the Lover of our souls..., Jesus!

To worry is sin! To chase after more is sin! To lust after other things is sin! These will kill the seed and prevent you from bearing fruit and God might become your enemy! **You have no rights**...! You belong to Him...! He has all rights over you...! He is jealous over you...! So...

Father, I am yours... This morning, the beginning of this new year, I ask you to take my heart, as I surrender all in humble obedience to Your Word... *For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and*

*desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes, and He is the one to whom we are accountable. (Hebrews 4:12-13)*

I am weak Lord... I ask You, Holy Spirit, to give me the strength and lead me day by day, to purify my life and make me faithful and obedient to Your Calling! Forgive me for not giving You first place in my life. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

This year we will serve You Lord our God with all our hearts, all of our souls, all of our minds, and all of our strength. (Mark 12:30) In Jesus' Name Amen!

May you have a wonderful day of peace and power as the Holy Spirit overwhelms you with His Presence!

Brian & Alta