

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

So now, what do you think is it "**TOMATO**" or "**TOMATO**"?

Well, actually a tomato, is a tomato, is a tomato!!!

Well, actually no, a tomato, is a tomato, is a tomato is not necessarily true. There are some tomatoes which are better than other tomatoes!!!

Recently, I had the opportunity to celebrate the eating of my first three home grown garden **TOMATOES** of the year!!! Home grown garden tomatoes put those store bought--even store bought "fancy tomatoes" to shame!!! Personally, I would say that home grown garden tomatoes are **AWESOME** when compared to store bought tomatoes!!!

Indeed, sometimes one thing can be better than another thing whether it is "**TOMATO**" or "**TOMATO**" home grown is far **SUPERIOR** to store bought!!! Sometimes one thing is better than another thing, a homerun is better than a strike out, a balanced meal for dinner is better than a chocolate chip cookie dough blizzard for dinner, walking here and there is better than taking the car everywhere, these are examples of the truth that sometimes one thing can be better than another thing!!!

LIVING with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in our hearts is better than not living with the love of God in our hearts!!! Actually, when we open our hearts to the **JOY** to be found when **LIVING** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in our hearts there is so much more than love, there is grace, support, comfort, compassion, guidance, understanding, caring, forgiveness, and renewal, that goes along with the wonder of **GOD'S** precious **LOVE**!!!

Now, **LIVING** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in our hearts is not better because we will have perfect earthly lives, not at all.

Consider Abraham, who lived with the love of God in his heart which meant for him leaving home, homeland, and his family, being guided by God to new beginnings with all kinds of dangers and uncertainties.

Consider Moses, who lived with the love of God in his heart which meant for him, conquering his fears as he stood at the "burning bush" so with God's help he could face pharaoh and participate in delivering the Israelite people out of bondage in Egypt.

Consider Mary, who lived with the love of God in her heart, which meant for her a pregnancy by the Holy Spirit, questioning in the heart of her husband to be Joseph, and a son dying on a cross.

Consider God's Son, **JESUS**, who **LIVES** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in his heart, which meant for him leaving the comforts of God's Kingdom to dwell among us on earth where he would face, doubters, hostility, ridicule, injustice, false accusations, a trial, a cross, crucifixion, and skeptics even after the **RESURRECTION**!!!

Now, **LIVING** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in our hearts is better in both the good times and the bad times because of grace, support, comfort, compassion, guidance, understand, caring, forgiveness, and renewal, that goes along with the wonder of **GOD'S** precious **LOVE**!!!

Love in Christ,

Dana

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life"