



Dear Friends,

My computer crashed between Christmas and New Year's Day, so I was without it for a more than a week. What a pain!! The problem turned out to be with an automatic update that went wrong. The computer was trying to help itself work better but instead encountered a glitch and stopped working completely.

Have you taken time to do a 2010 inventory yet? When I did, it felt like I had misfired in a few areas and now, just like my computer, my whole system was malfunctioning. I always hope to see some improvement from year to year, don't you?

If you remember my "word" for 2010 was "perspective". I started out in January 2010 with great hope, wanting to see life, every aspect of life that is, from God's perspective. But my December review of how I handled 2010 was hard to take. I felt like a complete failure. (Sorry, this isn't a very uplifting devotional so far.)

BUT GOD just reminded me to ask for his perspective (how ironic).

Please listen in while I get his opinion on my 2010.

BEV: I feel like I dishonored you in a bunch of areas this last year. Is this true?

ANSWER: Did you want to honor me?

BEV: Yes, very much.

ANSWER: Always?

BEV: ... No, there were many times when I didn't honor. In fact there were times when I purposeful made choices to dishonor you. How awful!!!

ANSWER: Did you eventually recognize what you were doing?

BEV: Yes. And I repented. And I determined to live to bring you glory. But then I would dishonor you again...

ANSWER: Who is the only human in all of history who never dishonored me?

BEV: Jesus.

ANSWER: Are you him?

BEV: No.

ANSWER: Then why do you think that you have to live life perfectly?

BEV: Isn't that what you expect – you know, "Be holy as I am holy"?

ANSWER: I expect and empower you to give the Holy Spirit free reign in your life in developing godliness. Do you hear that, developing, as in little by little!!

BEV: You know I like to tick things off my list. I guess I hoped to have ticked some areas of weakness off in 2010. Did nothing get accomplished?

ANSWER: Oh, how can you say that? I worked and most often you worked with me. I have in no way given up hope in your victory over sin. How can I? I've sent Jesus to die for your victory over sin. Your victory is that sure, that secure, because I hold it in my hands. Remember that verse you memorized in 1 John 5?

BEV: I know the exact one you are thinking of, **1 John 5:18 – "We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them."** You are saying that even though I choose sin at times, it will not have the ultimate victory over me. That is so reassuring.

ANSWER: What is even more reassuring is that you want to refrain from sin. You remain sensitive to my discipline. You have a soft heart. That is what I love about you.

BEV: Should that be my "word" for 2011 - "Keep a soft heart"? I can see how that is important in all my relationships not just with you.

ANSWER: I like it. Yes, make that your focus for this year. And I promise to help you keep a soft heart. Start by memorizing this verse – Psalm 51:17 (NLT) The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

BEV: Thank you for embracing me not rejecting me. I couldn't take it if you rejected me too.

Dear reader, how are you and your heart doing? Consider joining me in keeping a soft heart in all your relationships this year. I already feel a renewed sense of peace. Thank you, God.

Blessings from Bev



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