



# I LOVE JESUS

**“but do not have love,” –1 Corinthians 13:1,2,3**

As we grow and mature in our spiritual walk, some things that were not normal at the start become common practice. From how devoted we are to study, and to church, to even our understanding of “Churchy” words. Things have a tendency to become the “norm”.

And along with that, our motivation for this new normal life changes as well. Some for the good. Some for the bad. And it is just as different for each believer as the rate at which we grow and mature.

Good things...

We understand what prayer is and the power found there. We can recite verses that pick us up, along with others, on struggling days and remind us of who God is. We find other believers that walk with us and help us in our maturity along the way. These are all good things that only time, study and experience can teach us.

Bad things...

There are several and they differ from one to the next, so I will only hit on the one I see most often. I call it “The Test”. You see, when we first came to Jesus, we would’ve done anything for Him regardless of what it was and how it might change who we are. We were so passionately in love with Jesus that “doing” things for Him and with Him brought incredible joy; unexplainable joy.

But as we grow, those things turn into our to-do list. The Sunday morning wake-up joy becomes the “I gotta go to church” humdrum. I’m not sure when nor why it starts, but we begin keeping a list in our soul. “Today I have to do... to be a good Christian.” And our list gets longer every year. Does this sound familiar? Church attendance. Tithing. Devotion apps. Correct prayer language. And on. And on. It becomes like a test where we hope we have remembered all the correct answers so that God will pass us. In fact sometimes we become angry thinking He better pass us. Soon we are trying to attain our own holiness and have forgot that “new” Christian joy.

Is that you? Good news. Grace can immediately bring you back to a correct way of thinking. Paul said his good works were all “filthy rags” in comparison to God. And frankly so are ours. Grace is a reminder. It helps us realize that God did the work and paid the price for our sin and brokenness. And as we remember the payment that was paid, our passion, joy and love become more real. Even brighter because of His love.

From My Heart,

*Billy*