

How Do I Restore My Love for Jesus?

Questions Christians Ask

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Do you love Jesus the way you did when you first got saved? Do you still look forward to reading His word and spending time with Him in prayer? It is common to lose some of that joy and zeal for the things of God. But God has not left us without instruction. There is a way to restore our love for Him.

Jude 1:21 We were once in love with God. It is up to us to keep ourselves there.

WHY DO WE LOSE OUR LOVE FOR GOD?

1. BECAUSE OF THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.

- With each blessing God sends our way, and with the passing of time, our heart becomes divided, leaving less love for God.
- **Matthew 13:22** The blessings become thorns for the believer. Legitimate cares and duties can hinder the ability of the word of God to produce fruit in our life, though the word is as fruitful as always.
 - **“The care of this world”** cannot and should not be avoided. God told Adam and Eve they would have to deal with thorns (Gen 3:18) if they want to eat.
 - Making a living, providing for your family, food, clothing, shelter, etc.
 - This limits how much time you have left for worship and bible reading/study.
 - **“The deceitfulness of riches.”** We are deceived into thinking material blessings (bought by riches) are a substitute for spiritual blessings.
 - The more material blessings God gives us, the more difficult it will be to continue in the things of God and bear fruit.
- **Mark 4:19**
 - **“The cares of this world”** (plural). This goes beyond the legitimate duties of life.
 - World affairs, wars, elections, political or social movements.
 - Time spent involved in these things will reduce your time with Jesus.
 - **“The lusts of other things.”** You can’t add other things without taking away from spiritual things.
 - Sports, beach, overtime, social gatherings, hobbies, shopping, etc.
- **Luke 8:14**
 - **“And pleasures of this life”**
 - Sometimes when everything in your life is pleasant, God is put aside and forgotten.
 - You need to figure out how to enjoy the pleasures of family and material possessions without it harming your relationship with Jesus.
- **Luke 14:16-21** People make excuses for not spending time with the Lord.
 - **“I have bought a piece of ground...”** Yardwork is a poor excuse to neglect the Lord.
 - **“I have bought five yoke of oxen...”** Today’s excuse: I need to work on my car.
 - **“I have married a wife...”** You do many things without your wife. It’s a poor excuse.
 - These are all obvious excuses. If you don’t want to spend time with the Lord, just say so. Don’t add to the insult by lying. That angers the Lord (vs 21).
 - People who want to spend time with the Lord will prepare in advance and prevent anything from interfering with that special time.
- When you first got saved, you didn’t let anything prevent you from spending time in the bible, in church, or in other ministry activities.
 - Now, years later, we need to work to make sure the blessings in our life don’t interfere with our time with the One who gave us those blessings.

WHY DO WE LOSE OUR LOVE FOR GOD?

2. BECAUSE HE DID SOMETHING WE DON'T APPROVE OF.

- Loss of job, poor health, loss of a loved one, unfaithful spouse.
 - We tend to blame God for the bad things that happen in our life, even though He is not to blame.
- **John 6:60-69** Many of Jesus' disciples murmured at His difficult teaching (vs **60-61**).
 - Many of Jesus' disciples were offended and chose not to walk with Him anymore (vs **66**).
 - What if God chose to stop walking with us every time we offended Him?
 - Peter may have also been offended, but he understood that there was nowhere else to go. He knew Jesus was the Son of the living God.
 - Jesus knows more about life than I do, so I'll trust him even when I don't understand something He says or does.

EMOTIONS ARE NOT A PROOF OF YOUR LOVE FOR GOD.

- You may long for the feelings you had when you first got saved. It is natural for those feelings to fade with time and familiarity.
 - Now we have facts and faith instead of emotions to give us assurance of God's many truths.
 - Our relationship with the Lord has advanced beyond the need of emotional outbursts.

HOW DO WE GET THE LOVE BACK?

- **Revelation 2:1-5** You may be doing all the things a good Christian is expected to do, but still lack love for Jesus Christ.
 - The Lord's answer to that is "**Repent, and do the first works.**"
 - If you are doing everything right, what is the Lord telling you to repent of? Repent of not loving Him. He said, "**Remember...from whence thou art fallen, and repent.**"
 - You used to love Jesus so much that it was a joy to hear a song about him, to read about Him in the bible, and to hear a preacher preach about Him.
 - Remember when you did all the right things (a work of faith), but you did them simply because you loved the Lord (a labor of love). (1 Thess 1:3).
- **Psalms 51:1-13** David prayed and acknowledged his sins before God.
 - Not loving Jesus is a horrible sin. We need to acknowledge, confess, and repent.
 - "**Create in me a clean heart, O God**" (vs 10). Don't blame something or someone else, the problem is within you.
 - "**Restore unto me the JOY of thy salvation**" (vs 12). Have you ceased to enjoy your salvation? Ask God to restore the joy. If you don't, you'll seek joy somewhere else and get yourself into trouble like David did.
 - "**Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee**" (vs 13).
 - When you get your love for the Lord back, your works will be fruitful.
 - Without that love, you can do all the works expected of you, but it will bear no fruit.

"Keep yourself in the love of God." Talk to the Lord. Ask Him to help you to love Him like you want to.