I LOVE THE LORD

 Early in my ministry, I was helping in a revival.  We were having morning and evening services.  In the afternoon, the pastor and I had made some visits in the community and had made our way back to the church.  After reflecting on our visits, we knelt in the altar and began to pray.  I have no idea what the pastor was saying but I just began to say “Lord I Love You.”  The words felt so little, empty and meaningless that I tried again to say “Lord I Love You.” Again, it just felt very insufficient.  Finally I reached a point so that all I could say, over and over again, was “Lord I Love You.”

       Why should my words feel so little?  Maybe it is because my love really is very little compared to the love Jesus has shown me by dying for me on the cross of Calvary.  It could also be that Jesus expects a great love from me for him. “Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”  The Lord expects me to love Him more than anyone else in my life.  He called the sons of Zebedee to follow Him and they left Zebedee and their ships and followed Jesus.  Abraham left his father and his father’s family to follow the Lord’s direction.  Later Abraham was willing to place Isaac on the sacrificial altar because he loved the Lord.  James, John, Mary Magdalene and Abraham proved their love for the Lord.  I do not feel my love for Jesus has been lived out in my life like that of these men and women.

       Yet I know my love for the Lord has grown in time.  Much like the love I have for my wife, in time we have grown much closer and more in love.  Also, my Lord and I have been through much together.  It is often the hard times that brings us closer.  I have often said about my wife, “I did not know how to love her in our early years but, through hard times, trials and time, I do not think I could make it without her.”  My relationship with Christ has been similar in that when I was first converted I did not know how to love Him.  Through time and difficulties my love for Him has grown greater and greater.

        I do not want it to sound as if the only thing that can enhance my love for the Lord is hardships.  I have experienced times of worship that truly raised my love for Jesus.  There have been times in Bible Study that I have been brought in so close to the Lord and I know my love has grown for the Lord in the experience.  While meditating on the Lord and His Word I know my Love for Christ has been enhanced as I often felt his warm embrace.  Even in my sleep I have found his encouragement.

       That time in the altar was a very special time when over and over I kept saying “Lord I love you.”  Though it sure felt insufficient, the Lord came on the scene and filled my soul with joy unspeakable and full of glory.  I was overcome with the God’s Spirit.  All I could do was rejoice.  When I came to myself, the pastor I was praying with was rejoicing also.  One of the deacons of that church had come in the sanctuary.  He just sat down and watched as God blessed us over and over again.

        So God has provided life for me that has been very fertile ground for my love for Christ to grow, whether it be in joy or sadness, or just in time,  I thank you Lord for loving me and giving me the opportunity to love you.  “Lord I really do love you!” To God be the glory! Great things he hath done!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram