

## January 16, 2011 John I "Can't Help It"

I read a story about a lady who became a Christian. It seems that her past was filled with all kinds of trouble and bad decisions. She had literally hit rock bottom when a friend reached out and took her to church. She was welcomed by many others at the church and began to attend on a regular basis. She started going to Bible Class and get involved with activities. She even started praying. For the first time in her life she realized that God loved her, in spite of her past sins. She found great comfort knowing that Jesus died for her sins, forgave her, loved her, accepted her, and valued who she was. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the whole idea of God's "Amazing Grace" changed her heart and her life. She told her pastor, "I'm so excited to be a Christian that I have a strong case of the "can't help its." -

We read about Andrew the disciple in John 1 and discover that Andrew was so excited and thankful that he had found the Savior, Jesus, that he had a strong case of the "can't help its" as he reached out to his brother, Peter and invited him to meet Jesus. Andrew just couldn't help it!

We come to Church, some stay for Bible Class or Sunday School, some help with activities, but why do we do these things? Do we have hearts filled with guilt and say "we gotta do it" or grateful hearts that wanna do it and say "can't help it?" There's a whole different world for gotta or wanna. Gotta isn't motivated by faith, more like scoring points with God or other people. I gotta help so I'll look good to people at Church. I gotta help Grandma so she'll leave me in her will. I gotta go to Church or God will zap me. Gotta comes from a in-filled guilty heart that comes up short. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith in Jesus, we can't please God. God wants His people to be wannas who serve Him and others out of faith because they "can't help it."

Knowing all that Jesus has done for you should bring out the "can't help its." Like the woman in the story, we come to our Lord as poor, miserable sinners deserving only punishment and death for our sins. God loved us so much He sacrificed His Son on a cross for those sins, washes them away, welcomes you into His family, and loves and accepts you as His Own child. A heart filled with true thanksgiving and faith in Jesus is also filled with "can't help its." Giving thanks to God shows itself in our "can't help its."

We want to worship and pray because we can't help it. We study God's Word faithfully because we can't help it. We show love and forgiveness for unlovable people because we can't help it. We volunteer our time in the Lord's work because we can't help it. We share our faith and invite others to church because we can't help it.

Because God Is Good. . .All The Time, He loves and forgives us, why? Because He can't help it! Amen, pastor matthews