

Remember your first love.

Revelation 2:1 - 5 “*Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; (2) I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: (3) And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. (4) Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*”

What does salvation mean to you? We sometimes fail to remember how we became Christians and even church members. There are so many today who call themselves “Christian”, but they are nothing less than people deceiving themselves. As Christians and churches alike we have a great responsibility, not to have this charge against us, “*because thou hast left thy first love*”. So many have deserted the church, and some have even deserted the Lord, aren't we blessed that God has promised never to desert us? Churches are small today; they are missing so much of the body that Jesus Christ once built us to be. At a time that is behind us churches were full, faithful, and filled with great joy. But today, in the time of the age of Apostasy so many in the churches and even some entire churches have forsaken and deserted the Lord Jesus Christ. Many Pastors as myself have prayed, asked, and even begged, for these to come back to their “first love” and the church, but with only little to no response. The very church that our Saviour died for, our sweet Brothers and Sister worked so hard to build, and many even died for has dwindled to a few faithful souls.

We all, but mostly they need to remember Who brought them to salvation and set them in the churches as it pleased Him. **1 Corinthians 12:18** “*But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*” I have a question; do we all remember?

A. A human soul is only saved when His spirit is brought to life by God.

1. **Colossians 2:13 - 14** “*And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

- (14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”*
2. It was God, through the personal work of Jesus Christ that made us what we are as Christians.
 3. It was God that brought us to Christ and then set us in the body of Christ called the church. **John 1:12 - 13** *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*
 4. God changed us, He made us an entire new creature. **2 Corinthians 5:17** *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* – Not just a new creature, but an entire new creation by being “born again” – old things are supposed to be “passed away” or “perished from us”.
 5. This means we are supposed to be “changed people. “...old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” – This is our “first love.
- B. Why did so many leave their first love.
1. God asked Israel this question, that many Christians need to ask themselves. **Jeremiah 2:4-5** *“Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel: Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?”*
 2. Many Christians have lost their joy in the Lord because they have left Him. **Luke 2:9-11** *“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* Jesus brings us joy in our salvation, but that joy is lost when Christians leave the Lord.
 3. God’s word, another of our first love brings joy into our hearts. **Jeremiah 15:16** *“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”*

4. The joy in our hearts is the fellowship we all have in the Holy Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 1:6** “*And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:*” - With happiness produced by the Holy Ghost through the Scriptures, even if persecuted there is great joy.

C. Our first love after salvation is God, through Christ.

1. We had no true love until God made Jesus Christ, the word of God, the church, all real to us through the work and power of the Holy Spirit.
2. This great power of God’s eternal love placed in our hearts becomes our “first love”
3. As we mature in the Lord, and in the church, our first love just grows with exceeding joy. **Philippians 1:8-11** “*For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.*”

D. But Some “*hast left thy first love.*”

1. They have fallen away from God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Word of Truth, the Church, and they no longer find joy.
2. Some left, they do not know what they have done, they do not know the sadness they have brought to themselves and churches. **Matthew 24:12-13** “*And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*”
3. **Psalms 127:1** “*...Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*” – Except two walk together in agreement there shall be no fellowship. Amos 3:3 – Unless we walk in the light as He is in the light, we can have no fellowship. 1 John 1:7
4. The Lord said in Rev. 2:5 Unless we, “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works...” we will not have joy on this earth again, nor fellowship with the Lord. **John 15:5 - 6** “*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (6) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*”