HELEN SANDERS 12-30-2023 RETURN

As we close out 2023 and head into a new year, I am hearing the word "return." As I pondered on what God was saying, I believe that it is more than just a word. It is a "now" word.

God is wanting us to return to our first love for a start. In Revelation 2:1-7 Jesus spoke to the church at Ephesus. They had been doing many works and labors, but verse 4 says, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

Many times, we get so involved in doing works for God that we forget to spend time with him. Because he is our soon-coming bridegroom, we should look at being with him like one would want to be with the first love of our heart. We often lose the excitement of that love and take the Lord for granted. That should never be the case. We should have a spirit of excellence in any relationship, giving our best, returning to that burning love that God gave us through our first love.

God desires that we spend time with him. He is a jealous God. We must remember that Jesus gave us everything and did it without any hesitation. In examining ourselves, are we giving him our "everything?" If you are not spending that time with him through meditating on the word, prayer, and just sitting quiet at His feet, you need to repent and return to this.

There are many aspects of return that we will consider as the Lord gives us more insight, but for now, returning to our first love is the most important.