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YOUR FIRST LOVE

Jesus tells John in Revelation chapter 2 to write to seven different churches. The first one is to Ephesus. Ephesus had many things that were miraculous done there. We see this in Acts 19:11-21. Paul taught boldly in the synagogue for three months concerning the kingdom of God. When some opposed him, he moved to Tyrannus's school and taught the church at Ephesus for two years. Acts 19:10-11 said, ***“And this [Paul's teaching] continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. 11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul.”***

A mighty work had begun in Ephesus, and revival spread into Asia. Many came to know the Lord Jesus as their savior. But, like so many revivals, things cooled off. The church became works centered rather than “Christ centered.” Jesus speaks to them in Revelation 2:2-3 and commends them for their good works and stand against false apostles, but then says in verse 4, ***“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”*** It is not that they weren't doing something for the kingdom, but they were neglecting spending time individually with the Lord. They had lost the passion for that intimacy that they once had when they first were saved. They were taking God for granted.

You might say that you would never do that, but most have. The relationship between the Lord and us is like a marriage. When you first fall in love there is such a passion to spend time together. You want to do everything you can do to please the other person. You would never do anything to hurt that precious intimate relationship. But, just like Ephesus, one becomes so immersed in their daily life that one loses that passion in their marriage. They just expect the other person to always be there without spending intimate time with them. Like the church at Ephesus, you have neglected your “first love.”

Today's church has become so organized and void of true intimacy with the Lord that I can see the Lord weep over it. People are seeking after prophetic words rather than seeking after God for themselves. The dress and the music have become like the world, and often you cannot tell the difference between the church and the world.

We often hear about the Laodicean church where it is spoken of as being “neither hot nor cold,” but Ephesus shows their heart had gone from passion to position. It had gone from weeping in the presence of their Lord to works. Their fire for intimacy with God had diminished, and Jesus told them to repent, or they would no longer be a church.

Has this happened to you? If so, ask the Lord to forgive you and spend time with him. Rekindle that passion for him. Have you done this in your marriage? Then repent and determine to bring the passion you once had for your loved one that you once had. When the church and marriages do this, we will see true change and revival fire once again.