

Lifehouse Church

Maximize Christ Potential in You





RETURN

...to your first love

Revelation 2:4



Revelation 2:4–5 (ESV) “But I have this against you, that you have **abandoned** the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”

Abandoned means:

- to leave behind something once treasured.

Greek word translated “abandoned”: *aphiēmi*

- to release or cancel an agreement or covenant



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BIG IDEA

People don't fall out of love with God...
...People crowd Him out.





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Three Points to the Return

POINT 1 – THE WEIGHT THAT WEAKENS WORSHIP

POINT 2 – THE MASTER THAT MISDIRECTS DEVOTION

POINT 3 – THE COVENANT THAT CALLS US BACK



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BIG IDEA

Worship doesn't fade because God becomes less worthy...

...it fades because our lives become too heavy to stay attentive.





Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) “Let us also lay aside every **weight**, **AND** **sin** which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”



Weight means:

excess mass - something that restricts movement.

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Problem:

We don't stop worshiping God...
...we let good things outweigh our devotion to Him.

Solution:

- To strengthen your love for God...
...we must choose to lighten our load



Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) “Let us also lay aside every **weight**, **AND** **sin** which clings so closely



APPLICATION

What activities have I added that produces fear, pressure, or exhaustion instead of faith?



“Cast all your anxieties on Him...”

1 Peter 5:7

Cast means to:

- To forcefully shift the burden onto someone else



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Three Points to the Return

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BIG IDEA

Whatever controls your trust...
...eventually controls your worship.



Matthew 6:24 (NKJV) - “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.



Problem:

Whatever you turn to first in comfort...
...becomes your object of worship.



Problem:

Whatever you turn to first in comfort...
...becomes your object of worship.

Solution:

We have to CHOOSE Yahweh as our “Master”

- If I don't choose what rules me
- my flesh will choose the physical



APPLICATION



1. What do I obey when God's way feels uncomfortable?
(That voice is your master.)
2. What do I run to first for relief, security, or control?
(That refuge is your master.)
3. What decision do I protect when God challenges it?
(That priority is your master.)
4. What do I fear losing the most?
(That attachment is your master.)



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Revelation 2:4–5 (ESV) “But I have this against you, that you have **abandoned** the love you had at first.

“**Abandoned**” means:

- to release or cancel an agreement or covenant



BIG IDEA

Love for God is not restored by emotion...
...But by a restored covenant

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Problem:

The problem is not that God would ever move away from us...

The problem is that we drifted out of alignment with covenant.



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"Covenant" is the Hebrew word - (berith)
- an oath bound binding agreement



Exodus 34:14 (ESV) - “For the LORD,
whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”



Solution:

Love is restored through
“covenant recommitment.”

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What has been sharing space with Him in my heart?
2. What have I trusted, leaned on, or protected more than His voice?
3. What am I managing that God is asking me to remove?



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1 Corinthians 11:25 (ESV)

‘This cup is the new **covenant** in my blood.



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