

Lifehouse Church

Maximize Christ Potential in You





RETURN

...to your first love

Revelation 2:4



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

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FIRST FRUITS GIVEN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

Point 1 – The Priority of the First

Point 2 – The Power of the Portion

Point 3 – The Faith of the First Offering

Point 4 – The Practice, Not the Date

Point 5 – The Pattern of the Promise

Return – Week 1



You can be busy for God and still be distant from God.

BIG IDEA

You can do the work of God...
...and still “drift” from the heart of God.

Return – Week 2

People don't fall away from God overnight. They “drift” - through “delay”, distraction, and misplaced devotion.

Solution - Remember - Repent - Return.

Revelation 2:5 (ESV) “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.”

Return – Week 3



- Giving God your "First Fruits"

Not as a rule (God's tithe)

- BUT as a realignment (our choice)

It was our way of saying...

"...God, You are first - not what's left."



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Today's Focus

Returning to your first love produces...
...celebration, victory, and freedom.



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POINT 1: RETURNING RESTORES JOY

From Duty to Delight

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Revelation 2:5a (ESV) “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.”



Problem Statement

The problem is not sin...
...it's soulless relationship.



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“Remember” means to:
Actively recall with intention.

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How does a person return to “loving God” - once you “drift” out of intimacy?

1. Pray and Read the Word - without an agenda.
2. Serve where no one sees you.
3. Worship with gratitude
- and expectation of returned intimacy.



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Solution Statement

- Joy is restored when intimacy becomes the motivation again.



BIG IDEA

- Joy is not the reward of obedience
- joy is the fruit of love.



Application

1. When did your devotion to God turned into duty for God?
2. What did your relationship with God look like when you felt intimacy with God?
3. What “first works” need to return?



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POINT 2 – RETURNING RECLAIMS VICTORY

From Weariness to Authority

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Revelation 2:7 (ESV) “To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”



Problem Statement

Many believers are saved...
...but many are tired / burned out.



“To conquer” (nikaō) means:
Ongoing overcoming.

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The “Tree of Life” represents:
Restored access to what was lost in Eden...
...intimacy with God (our lifeline).



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Solution Statement

Victory returns when love is restored.

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BIG IDEA

Victory is not something you chase...
...It is something you live in
when love is in the right priority.



Mind Shift

- From: My goal is trying to survive spiritually through a selfish agenda
- To: My Goal is to reclaiming spiritual authority through a sacrificial lifestyle



Application

1. What battles feel heavier than they should because “love” is absent?
2. Where has love been replaced by performance to survive?



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POINT 3 – RETURNING RELEASES FREEDOM
From Bondage to Belonging

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Problem Statement

- Bondage to sin is not primarily a behavioral problem...
...it is the result of misprioritized affection.

Scriptures tell us...

Exodus 20:3 - "You shall have no other gods before Me"
→ affection order

Matthew 6:21 - "Where your treasure is, there your heart
will be also"

Revelation 2:5 - ...works remained, love did not...



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“Institutionalization” is when:
captivity becomes familiar
and freedom feels unsafe



Isaiah 58:6 (ESV) “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness...to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”



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Solution Statement

Freedom is not found by fighting sin harder...
...it is found by loving God first.



BIG IDEA

Freedom is not the absence of struggle...
...it is the result of love in the right order



Application

1. What has been regulating my perspective instead of God?
2. Where have I stayed in a familiar prison even though the door is open?
3. How does my love need to be reordered today?



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