

YOU DON'T LOVE ME LIKE YOU USED TO

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Have you ever looked across the table at someone you used to share everything with, and realized the fire was gone? The routine is still there. The bills are paid, the house is clean, the pleasantries are exchanged. But the passion is dead. There is a specific kind of heartbreak that comes from proximity without intimacy. You can share a roof with someone and be a million miles away in your heart.

That is exactly what was happening in the book of Revelation, but it wasn't happening in a marriage. It was happening in a church. It was happening between God and His people.

Jesus is speaking to the church at Ephesus. He looks at this group of believers and delivers a heavy, heartbroken indictment. They had the right doctrine. They had the right schedule. They were busy doing the work of the Kingdom. But God looked past their busy hands and saw a vacant heart. He looked at His bride and essentially said, "You don't love me like you used to."

We are going to look at four realities from this text. We are going to confront the emotional scars, the religious routines, and the mental strongholds that pull us away from the altar. It is time to get our fire back.

Point 1: The Trap of Motion Without Devotion

Revelation 2:2-3 KJV

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: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not

fainted.

The most dangerous place to be in your spiritual walk is highly active and completely hollow. Jesus starts by giving Ephesus a performance review, and on paper, they are flawless. They are working hard. They are enduring persecution. They have zero tolerance for false teachers. They are sweating for the Kingdom and they refuse to quit.

But God does not just grade our sweat; He examines our surrender. You can be busy in the building but bankrupt in your spirit. We have mastered the art of pretentious worship. We know when to stand, when to clap, and when to shout. We know how to serve on the usher board, how to preach a sermon, and how to sing in the choir. But motion is not devotion. You can be doing all the right things for God while your heart is completely disconnected from Him. We use church work to hide our spiritual fatigue. We think that if we just keep doing things, God won't notice that we stopped loving Him intimately. But Jesus sees through the schedule. He sees the exhaustion. He sees the trauma you are trying to cover up with religious activity.

Point 2: The Tragedy of the Shift

Revelation 2:4 KJV

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Notice the exact wording Jesus uses here. He does not say you lost your first love. If you lose something, it is an accident. You drop your keys. You misplace your phone. But leaving is a decision. Leaving is a departure.

Nobody wakes up on a Tuesday morning and suddenly decides to stop loving God. It is a slow, quiet shift. It happens when the storms of life hit and God doesn't answer your prayer the way you wanted Him to. It happens when trauma enters your life, when grief knocks on your door, and instead of taking that pain to the altar, you internalize it. You build a wall. You let bitterness take root in your spirit. You stop trusting Him with the deep things, and you settle for just giving Him your Sunday mornings.

This is a self-sabotaging mindset. We think we are protecting ourselves from further pain by pulling our emotions back from God. But when you leave your first love, you forfeit your peace. The "first love" isn't just about an emotional high; it is about absolute dependence. It is the kind of love that says, "Lord, I have nothing without You." When we leave that place, we start relying on our own strength, our own intellect, and our own resources. We survive, but we stop thriving.

Point 3: The Command to Remember and Repent

Revelation 2:5a KJV

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent...

You cannot fix what you refuse to face. Jesus gives them a very clear, urgent prescription for their cold hearts. The first step is to remember. Memory is a powerful tool for deliverance in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is telling them to look back at the height from which they fell. Remember what it felt like when you didn't need a Hammond organ to praise Him. Remember when you didn't need the choir to be perfectly in tune to lift your hands. Remember when you were just so glad that He saved you, so glad that He pulled you out of the darkness, that you would pray in your car, weep in your living room, and worship while you washed the dishes.

Once you remember, you must repent. Repentance is not just crying at the altar. Tears will get your face wet, but repentance will get your life right. Repentance means changing your mind and changing your direction. It means looking at God and saying, "I am sorry for treating You like a ritual. I am sorry for letting my trauma dictate my worship. I am sorry for giving You my leftovers." You have to break the agreement you made with apathy.

Point 4: The Return to the Remedy

Revelation 2:5b KJV

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.

God is a God of restoration, but He requires our participation. He says to do the first works. What were the first works? Think back to when you first gave your life to Christ. You had a hunger for the Word. You had a desperation in your prayer life. You had a willingness to forgive people who hurt you because you knew how much God had forgiven you.

Doing the first works means returning to the posture of a child. It means stripping away the pride, the titles, and the religious armor you have put on over the years. It requires breaking through the spiritual warfare that tells you it is too late to get your fire back. The enemy wants you to stay cold. The enemy wants you to stay bitter and offended. But Jesus is calling you back to the beginning. He is challenging you to seek Him in the secret place again.

If we do not return to that intimacy, we lose our light. Jesus warns that He will remove the candlestick. A church or a believer without love is just making noise in the dark. We cannot afford to lose our fire in this season. The world needs men and women who are burning with genuine, unfiltered, unapologetic love for Jesus Christ. It is time to go back to the altar, lay down the heavy burdens, release the emotional baggage, and fall in love with Him all over again.

