



# **When the Spirit Speaks to the Church**

## **The Search for My First Love Revelation 2:1-7**

**Our right beliefs and works can never  
replace a burning heart for Jesus!**

**Verses 1-4:**

### **Text Message:**

o Just some background information

1) There are seven letters in Revelation 2-3, written to seven historic regions/churches in first-century Asia Minor.

2) The book of Revelation is apocalyptic

literature, which was symbolic literature written to address current crises.

3) Most of the churches addressed here were not only dealing without outward crises, but spiritual ones.

- o This was true of the church at Ephesus, although it was not “all bad.” The church was:

- 1) A working church (Verse 2a). The word “toil” here is the Greek κοπος (*kopos*) and comes from the root verb κοπτω

- (*kopto*), which means “to beat, strike.”

- 2) Doctrinally sound church (Verse 2b).

- 3) “Fighting the good fight” (Verse 3).

- o This is a church that we would want to belong to today!

- o **BUT...** there was an “inside out” problem in the church!

**No matter how many steps we've walked away, it's only one step back!**

**Verses 4-5a:**

**Text Message:**

- o "You have abandoned the love you had at first." *Jesus*
- o Notice Jesus **did not** say that the church had abandoned Him, but rather their first love for Him (and one another)!
- o The church in Ephesus had it all except for a burning heart!
- o *How's your heart burn for Jesus these days?*
- o When we're tired and weary, and depressed and sad, and had it; when we've had **enough**, know that in Jesus there is **more!**
- o Jesus in His grace gives us a simple two-step spiritual R&R:
  - 1) Remember (5a).  
***IF you don't have anything to remember,***

***this is the day of remembrance!***

2) Redo (Repent & do; 5a).

**Jesus will build His Church but has placed its future in our hands.**

**Verses 5b-7:**

**Text Message:**

- o Losing a burning heart for Jesus will have a ripple effect.
- o Jesus said to the church at Ephesus that their lampstand would be removed unless they repent (5b).
- o When a church loses its first love **of** Jesus, losing its love **for** one another and love **to** the world are not far behind and when this happens, its lampstand is removed!
- o Jesus will build His Church (nothing can stop it!), but he offers to us the consequences of burnt-out hearts or burning hearts:
  - 1) For burnt-out hearts, the lampstand (tree)

is removed.

2) For burning hearts, there is a tree  
(lampstand) of life!

- o This promise is to the church at Ephesus, who dealt with the false-teaching of proto-Gnosticism in the first century; a group of people who flip-flopped the Genesis 3 story.
- o The promise “to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God” is more than a go-to-heaven-when-we-die promise but a bring-heaven-to- earth-while-we-live promise!