

Our First Love



Revelation 2:1-7 NIV

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp stands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Revelation 2:1-7 NIV

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat

Revelation 2:1-7 NIV

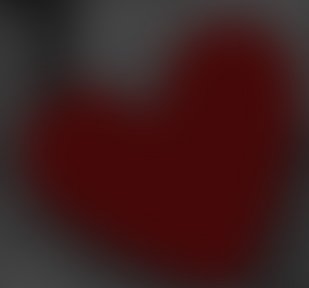
From the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

3 common aspects of the letters to the 7 churches

- Commendation-what you are doing well
- Correction-what you are not doing well
- Counsel-how you need to change

Greg Morse

“God allows my joylessness to snap me out of treating him as a hobby.”



3 Ways to Return to Your First Love



1. Worship

Romans 12:1 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

James Packer

“This then is worship in its largest sense: petition as well as praise, preaching as well as prayer, hearing as well as speaking, actions as well as words, obeying as well as offering, loving people as well as loving God. However, the primary acts of worship are those which focus on God directly—and we must not imagine that work for God in the world is a substitute for direct fellowship with him in praise and prayer and devotion.”

2. Stay in the Word

John 1:1 NIV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Approach the Word of God in a Christo-centric way.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3. Witness

Witness- Greek Martus- to testify to something you have seen or heard.

The root word is martyr- to suffer for what you have believed or witnessed.

Acts 5:32 NIV

We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

God did not design us to be reservoirs, he designed us to be rivers.

RECAP

VS 5 Consider how far you have fallen, repent and do the things you did at first.

- Worship
- Stay in the Word
- Witness

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