

LOSING YOUR FIRST LOVE

Revelations 2:1-7

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January 12, 2025

INTRO:

Message in a bottle then and now

A. RECOMMENDATION

1. Committed to good **works** (v. 2a)
2. Commended for **endurance** (v. 2b-3)
3. Confronted false **teachings** (v. 6)

B. REBUKE

1. Forsaken their first **love** (v. 4)
2. Fallen from great **heights** (v. 5a)
3. Failed to **prioritize** rightly (v. 5b)

C. REMEDY

1. Remember where you **started** (v. 5a)
2. Repent and change your **direction** (v. 5b)
3. Realign to the **voice** of the Holy Spirit (v. 6)

CONCLUSION

Jesus' message to the church in Ephesus reminds us that good works and endurance are important but our love for Him must remain our top priority. Let us remember, repent, and realign our hearts to follow Him with renewed devotion. Today, will you take that step to return to your first love?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker

Share about a time you rediscovered something you loved (a hobby, a favorite place, or even a relationship). How did it feel to return to it?

Digging into the Passage

Begin by asking God to open your hearts and minds to His Word and to rekindle a deep love for Him.

1. What stood out to you the most in Revelation 2:1-11? Why do you think Jesus begins with commendation before addressing the church's shortcomings?
 2. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus when you first came to faith? What were some of the things you did that reflected your love for Him?
 3. In what ways have life's distractions or challenges caused your devotion to drift?
 4. Jesus tells the church to remember, repent, and return. Which of these steps feels most challenging for you right now? Why?
 5. What practical steps can you take this week to rekindle your love for Jesus? How can the group support you?
 6. Revelation 2:7 says, *"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* How do you intentionally listen to God's voice in your daily life? What is Holy Spirit leading you at this stage in your life?
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Closing Reflection and Prayer

Spend 2 minutes in silent reflection. Write down one thing you will do this week to return to your first love. Share it with the group if you feel comfortable.

Please remind everyone to attend *"First Love: A Night of Prayer and Worship"* on January 17, 2025, Friday at 7 PM in the main sanctuary.