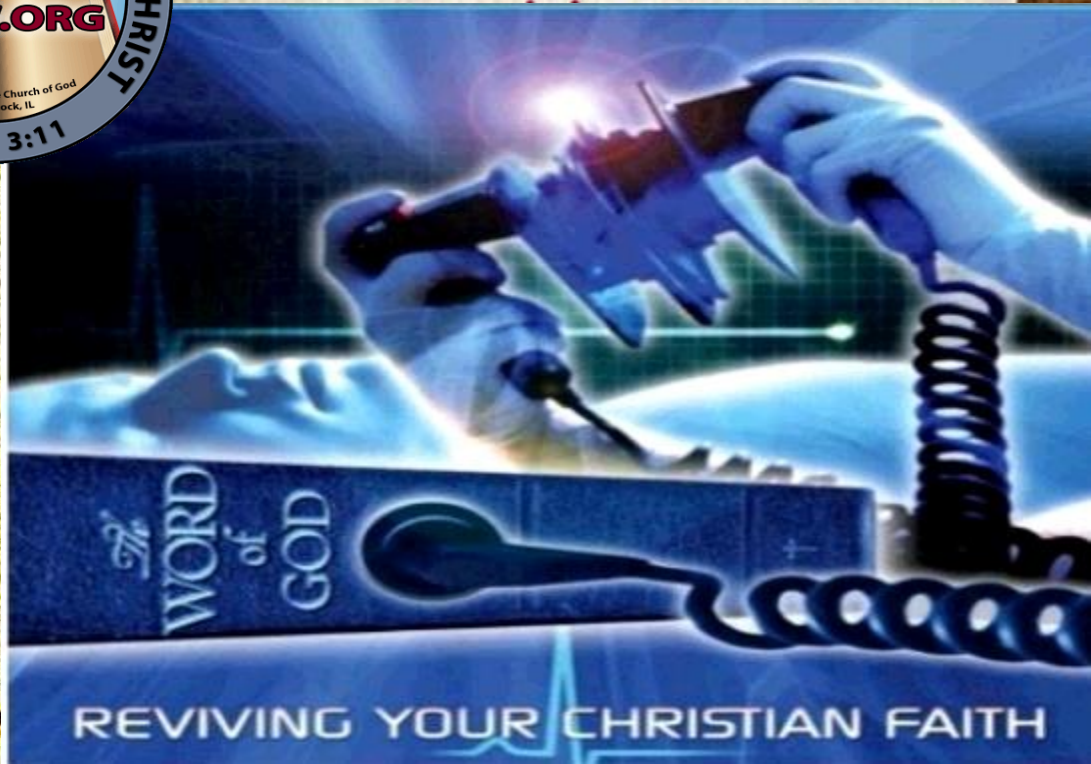
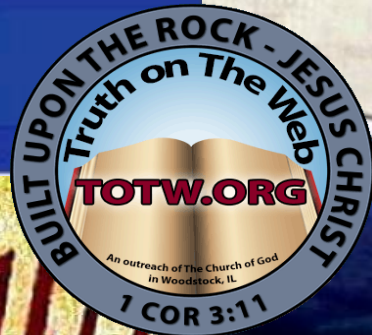
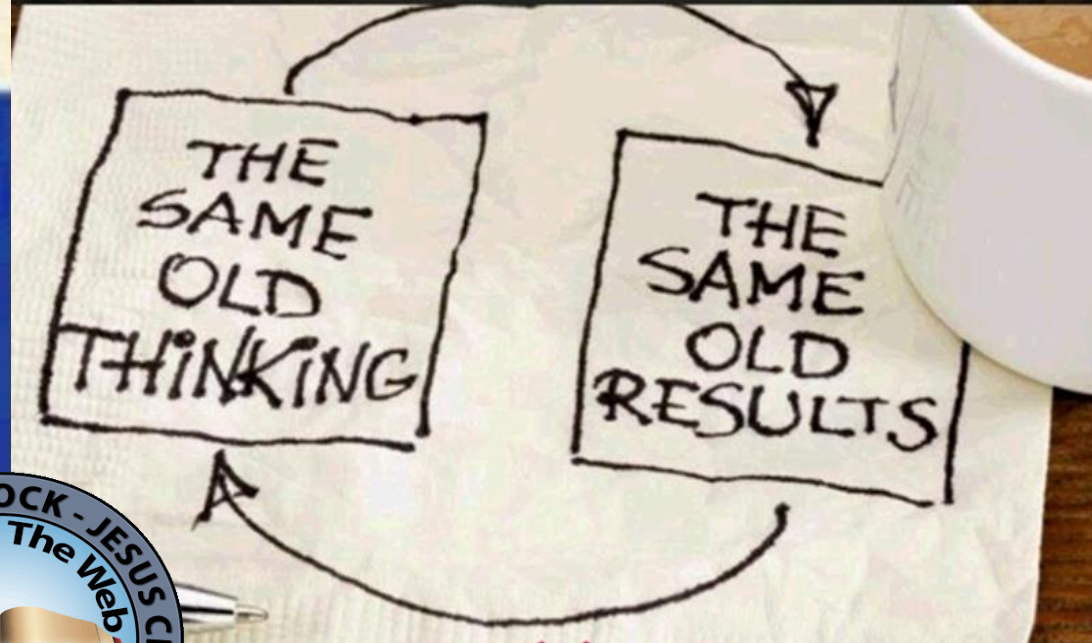


Think BIBLICALLY



RENEW

your mind
Romans 12:2





Rekindling Your First Love



Unto the Church write:

Revelation 2:1-4 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 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. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, 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.

Revelation 2:1-4

I know:

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thy labour

thy patience

how thou canst not bear them which are evil

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hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's
sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

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

Hard work was not enough. Sacrifice was not enough. Doctrinal purity was not enough. Fine pastoral oversight was not enough. Perseverance in the midst of suffering was not enough.

This congregation had left its first love, and if it didn't repent—notice this is a corporate call—the Lord would actually remove it from its place. There would no longer be a church of Ephesus! Do you see how important it is in the eyes of the Lord that we maintain our first love?

He speaks of our first love as a height—a glorious, wonderful height—from which we can fall. He calls us to return to that height. We forsake—not "lose"—our first love. We voluntarily leave the place of spiritual passion by the choices we make and the lifestyles we adopt.

Dr. Michael Brown

Evangelist Charles Finney commented on this, saying **even with a backslidden heart a believer could remain active in Christian service.**

For Finney, backsliding consisted of:

- 1) taking back that consecration to God and His service, that constitutes true conversion
- 2) the leaving, by a Christian, of his first love
- 3) the Christian withdrawing himself from that state of entire and universal devotion to God, which constitutes true religion, and coming again under the control of a self-pleasing spirit.

**Have you experienced the grace of God through the
love of Christ?**

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Our Commandment-keeping should not be a strain on us, but should be the natural reaction to the grace of God. It should not be something you force yourself to do.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15 If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments.

first love.

first love.

“I can’t stop thinking about you.”

Psalms 84:1-2 How amiable *are* Thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

Psalms 84:10 For a day in Thy courts *is* better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Have you experienced the love of Christ?

Psalms 25:5 Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me: for Thou *art* the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day.

Psalms 35:28 And my tongue shall speak of Thy righteousness *and* of Thy praise all the day long.

Psalms 71:8 Let my mouth be filled *with* Thy praise *and with* Thy honour all the day.

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:19 We love Him, because He first loved us.

I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ...

Philippians 3:8

Why do people fall away?

Why do people fall away?

They have either:

never truly known the love of Christ
lost sight of it

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, 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.

The evidences.

1. You can go hours or days without having more than a passing thought of Him.
2. You don't have a strong desire to spend time with Him.
3. You don't have a strong hunger for the Word; Bible reading is a "chore" – something to mark off your "to do" list.
4. Spending time in prayer is a burden/duty rather than a delight.
5. Your worship is formal, dry, lifeless, merely going through the motions.

6. Private prayer and worship are almost non-existent . . . cold and dry.
7. You are more concerned about physical health, well-being, and comfort than about the well-being and condition of your soul.
8. You crave physical food, while having little appetite for spiritual food.
9. You crave human companionship more than a relationship with Christ.
10. You spend more time and effort on your physical appearance than on cultivating inner spiritual beauty to please Christ.

11. Your heart toward Christ is cold and indifferent; not tender as it once was, not easily moved by the Word, talk of spiritual things, etc.

12. Christianity is more of a checklist than a relationship with Christ.

13. You measure spirituality (yours/others') by performance rather than the condition of the heart.

14. Christianity is defined more by what you "do" than who you "are" ("doing" vs. "being").

15. Your obedience and service are motivated and fueled by expectations of others or a desire to impress others, more than by passion for Christ.

16. You are more concerned about what others think and pleasing them, than about what God knows and pleasing Christ.

17. Your service for Christ and others is motivated by a sense of duty or obligation.

18. You find yourself becoming resentful over the hardships and demands of serving Christ and others.

19. You can talk with others about kids, marriage, weather, and the news, but struggle to talk about the Lord and spiritual matters.

20. You have a hard time coming up with something fresh to share in a testimony service at church or when someone asks, “What’s God been doing in your life?”

21. You are formal, rigid, and up-tight about spiritual things, rather than joyful and winsome.

22. You are critical or harsh toward those who are doctrinally off-base or living in sin.

23. You enjoy secular songs, movies, and books more than songs or reading material that point you to Christ.

24. You prefer the company of people who don't love Christ, to the company and fellowship of those who do.

25. You are more interested in recreation, entertainment, and having "fun" than in cultivating intimacy with Christ through worship, prayer, the Word, and Christian fellowship.

26. You display attitudes or are involved in activities that you know are contrary to Scripture, but you continue in them anyway.

27. You justify “small” areas of disobedience or compromise.

28. You have been drawn back into sin habits that you put off when you were a young believer.

29. “Little” things that used to disturb your conscience, no longer do.

30. You are slow to respond to conviction over sin – or you ignore it altogether.

31. You enjoy certain sins and want to hang onto them. You are unwilling to give them up for Christ.
32. You are not grieved by sin – it's no big deal to you.
33. You are consistently allured by certain sins.
34. You are self-righteous – more concerned about sin in others' lives than in your own.
35. You are more concerned about having the right position than the right disposition.

36. You tend to hold tightly to money and things, rather than being quick to give to meet the needs of others.

37. You rarely give sacrificially to the Lord's work.

38. You rarely have a desire or burden to give, when you hear of legitimate financial needs within the Body, your church, or a ministry.

39. Accumulating and maintaining material "things" consumes more time and effort on your part than seeking after and cultivating spiritual riches.

40. You have broken relationships with other believers that you are unwilling or have not attempted to reconcile

The causes.

Mark 4:19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Jeremiah 11:13 For your gods have become as many as your cities, O Judah, and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to shame, altars to make offerings to Baal..

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The solution.

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, 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.

- Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen
- Repent
- Do the first works

1 John 4:19 We love Him, because He first loved us.

Luke 7:36-40 And one of the Pharisees desired Him that He would eat with him. And He went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at His feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden Him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

Luke 7:41-47 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And He said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And He turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest Me no water for My feet: but she hath washed My feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest Me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss My feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed My feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Count Your Many Blessings

Psalms 103:1-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 103:6-17 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children

Psalms 51:1-7 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, *and* be clear when Thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* Thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalms 51:8-16 Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* Thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me *with Thy* free spirit. *Then* will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth Thy praise. For Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*. Thou delightest not in burnt offering.

Psalms 34:1-4 I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

If you have left your first love for the Lord,

Remember, repent, and return to the first works of your faith.

May God rekindle your love for Him!

Live in the Love of God!

HAPPY SABBATH
DAY!

KEEP IT HOLY!

HAPPY SABBATH
DAY!

KEEP IT
WHOLLY!

HAPPY SABBATH
DAY!

KEEP IT HOLY!

HAPPY SABBATH
DAY!

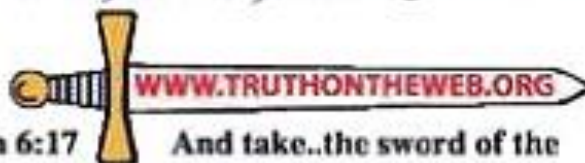
*Sabbath4CoGs
Chatroom*

**Thy
Word
is
Truth**

John 17:17



Truth On The Web Ministries



Eph 6:17 And take..the sword of the
spirit, which is the word of God.



THANK YOU!!

Church of God at Woodstock