

June 24, 2007

Sermon: "Our Spiritual Journey" (Part 1)

Scripture: Revelation 2:2-5

²I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. ⁵Remember the height from which 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.

Introduction

- Life is a series of ups and downs.
- The Bible is loaded with Illustrations of Highs and Lows.
- Revelations 2:2-5
- Do you remember your first love? What was it like?
- Attributes of what first love looks like:
 1. There is an insatiable desire to learn about the other person.
 2. There is a heavy investment in the relationship.
 3. There is an intense preoccupation of the heart.
- Revelations 2:4 reminds us, "You have left your first love."
- What steps do we take on our spiritual journey to be successful? (Revelation 2:5 tells us)

I. First step on this journey is *remember*.

- Remember your first love.
- God remembers when you couldn't get enough of His Word.
- Don't let your life get so busy that you don't have time for God.

II. Second step on this journey is *repent*.

- What does repent mean = I recognize that where I am is not where I am supposed to be. So, I turn and move toward where I am supposed to be.
- The truth is found in Lamentations 3:40.

III. Third step on this journey is *this - You do what you used to do*.

- Trust God and stay on course with him.
- Keep worshipping God, stay in the Word, stay involved in small groups, memorize scripture.
- Philippians 3:16, Galatians 5:16,22-23, II Corinthians 8:11
- The Key to success with God is **Obedience and Trust**.
- If you fail, remember this - **God never does!**

Conclusion

- Maybe you've blown it - really messy.
- You think God would never want you or forgive you. You're wrong - He does want you - mess and all.
- Start your spiritual journey today with God.
- If you are already on the journey, stay with it.
- **God's love never fails!**