
The Repentance of Love (Ya'll Get Back To Work)

First Love

Pastor Wil Nichols

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Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: First Love: The Repentance of Love (Ya'll Get Back To Work)

Lesson Text

Revelation 2:4–5 (KJV) ⁴ Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 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.

Luke 6:22–23 (KJV)²² Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you *from their company*, and shall reproach *you*, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. ²³ Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

Romans 8:26–28 (KJV)²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

James 2:17–20 (KJV)¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Introduction

This series is an exploration from my book, “First Love, True Love, Best Love” based on Revelation 2: ⁴ Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

It explores what we do when we lose that loving feeling: 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.

Last week we looked at the first actions – To Remember (Passion, Purpose, Promise)

Today we will look the 2nd action necessary to get our first love back, and that is To Repent!

Repentance is very different than Forgiveness.

When we sin and ask God for forgiveness; he gives us grace and mercy! But if we don't repent, then we'll do it all over again. Forgiveness is something you receive, whereas Repentance is something you do. And what God wants us to do is get back to work.

Have you ever seen someone at work, but they really weren't working? They off getting coffee, walking the halls, talking to co-worker, or doing something other than what they should be doing.

“Mission Creep” is where you allow other thing, shiny object, other interests to cause you to do any and everything other than what you should be doing. And this is what happens to our relationships when we first fell in love.

Revelation 2: ⁵ **... repent, and do the first works;**

If you don't feel love, don't feel passion, don't feel purpose, or don't feel promise God says we must repent and return back to our first works. Get out of the break room, get out of the hall ways, stop doing what you are doing, and get back to work.

Last week we said, “Ya'll must have forgot”, but this week we say, “Ya'll get back to work”!

Series and Sermon: First Love: The Repentance of Love (Ya'll Get Back To Work)

(Return To Your Passion, Return To Your Purpose, Return To Your Promise)

I. Return To Your Passion (Work Your First Joy)

Luke 6: ²³ **Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.**

Why do we stop working our Joy? Because we are waiting on happiness.

Losing your First Love is losing your passion or joy for a thing. Why? Because we conflate joy with happiness, and right now we are not happy.

Luke 6: ²² **Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.**

When these things happen to us, we don't feel blessed, we feel unhappy.

We assumed something is wrong and thus lose our passion. At which point we begin to “mission creep” looking for other things and people to make us happy.

Some people pursue people for happiness, money and riches, power and authority, fame and notoriety, promotion and position, all in an attempt to be happy!

But what Jesus is teaching us here is that a true prophet will be persecuted; and the false prophet will appear to get ahead.

Psalms 73: ¹ Truly God is good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart. ² But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. ³ For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

To Return to Passion, Get Back to Working Your Joy!

Luke 6: ²³ **Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy:**

How do you work joy when you don't feel happy? It's when you know you're blessed.

But being blessed is not an emotion, it's a state of life. And joy is not an emotion like happiness, it's a fruit of the spirit that must be worked.

Deuteronomy 28: ² And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. ³ Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.

Deuteronomy 28: ⁶ Blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou comest in, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou goest out. ⁷ The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

Return to your First Love by Get Back To Working Your Joy!

II. Return To Your Purpose (Work Your First Calling)

Romans 8: ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Why do we stop working our purpose? Because we make it about us, and not about God.

A lot of people struggle in life because they are searching for purpose – meaning, calling, importance, significance, or destiny.

And when they fail to find happiness in what they are doing, they start looking at what others are doing – they “Mission Creep” from their purpose by conforming to actions of others.

So instead of walking and working our calling, we begin to follow, adapt, imitate, or mimic what we see others doing.

But when you conform to what others are doing, you lose what you're called to do.

Romans 12: ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

When you're not happy, you look for meaning and purpose, but when you have joy, you simply answer you call.

To Return to Purpose, Get Back to Working Your Calling!

Romans 8: ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to **his purpose**.

Matthew 22: ¹⁴ **For many are called, but few are chosen.**

Our purpose in life is ultimately not ours, but the Lords, and when we lose focus of that fact, our calling gets lost in the mix.

We can wait to figure out Purpose, we must Work our Calling!

And to work our calling, we must stop conforming, and start transforming.

Romans 12: ² And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Philippians 2: ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

We must work to transform to a mind of humility, mind of mercy, mind for forgiveness, mind of suffering, mind of loving, mind of blessing, mind of serving!

Return to your First Love by Working Your Calling!

III. Return To Your Promise (Work Your First Word)

James 2: ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

To Return to Passion, Get Back to Working Your Joy! Why? Because you're blessed.

To Return to Purpose, Get Back to Working Your Calling! Why? Because it's God's purpose.

To Return to Promise, Get Back to Working Your Word! Why? Because the Word is Faith.

Why do we stop working our promise? Because we lack the faith to believe it will work. And so we "Mission Creep" into doubt.

Matthew 17: ¹⁹ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

To get faith, we must work the Word of God.

Romans 10: ¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Work the Word by Meditating on It: Psalm 1: ¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Work the Word by Hiding It: Psalm 119: ¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Work The Word by Maintaining Your Hope: Hebrews 11: ¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Work the Word by Combining It With Faith: James 2: ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Repentance of Love (Ya'll Get Back To Work))

Lesson Text

- Revelation 2:4–5, Luke 6:22–23, Romans 8:26–28, James 2:17–20

Sermon Outline

- I. Return To Your Passion (Work Your First Joy)**
- II. Return To Your Purpose (Work Your First Calling)**
- III. Return To Your Promise (Work Your First Word)**

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Bearing in mind that God has promised you a future and a hope, write the first sentence of your autobiography.
2. What do you do every Spring?

II. Into The Bible

1. Read James 2:14-20 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Why does James describe faith without works as dead rather than just sick or weak according to Verse 17?
 - b. Since faith can't be seen, why must it be shown through works?
2. According to James 1:2-4, how can we view trials as opportunities for growth instead of focusing on the pain?

II. Life Application

1. Psalm 51:12 NIV, “*Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*” Have you lost your passion or the joy of your calling? Based on the sermon, what are some practical steps you can take to restore your joy and renew your passion?
2. What promise has God made to you that you've allowed to become stagnant? What is one first step you can take to begin moving toward that promise? Over the next week, commit to doing one thing that brings you closer to it.