

Falling in Love with God Again - When your Faith Grows Cold
Wednesday Night - Union Grove Baptist Church of Whitehall
by Pastor Faber McMullen - May 8, 2019
"Falling Back in Love with God"

Big Idea: Staying close to the Lord takes submission, work and discipline. It starts with surrender to God's will for your life; and, putting yourself totally in His hands. Remember His past wondrous works in your life. Repent of your indifferent heart. Return & Repeat those first acts of discipleship: Private worship, Real prayer, Digging into the Word, Real giving, Fasting, and obeying the Holy Spirit as He takes you into true acts of service.

Rev 2:4b-5

"...you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

The Ephesian church was sound in doctrine and active in service, but the true motive of all their worship and service was missing. Jesus told them to: 1) remember the good days of their early faith, 2) repent of their diminishing of first love, and 3) repeat the devoted service which characterized the beginning of their walk with Christ.

1) Remembering - Take a moment to go back through great things that you know God did in your life. What were they? The disciple Peter tells us, *"to stir up your pure MINDS by way of remembrance"* (2 Peter 3:1)

2. Repent - repent of your cold heartedness. Agree with God that you have a problem. Repent of your indifference to God and the things of God. Repentance requires a change of heart, mind, and direction in your spiritual life. *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16 ESV). It is His grace and His mercy that we seek. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 ESV). "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV).*

3) Repeat - go back and focus/do those first acts of love you did when you first fell in love with God:

A. Worship - True worship - Where and when, and how do you engage in personal worship?

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple" (Psalm 27:4).



B. Prayer - Real Prayer - speak your heart to the Lord. Be truthful. Then listen. Then listen again. There are 4/5 little steps that might help you to have a full prayer life: A.C.T.S.

- **Adoration** - 1 Chron 29:11-13 - Do you spend time in personal worship?
- **Confession** recognize your unworthiness before a holy God and be grateful for His limitless mercy and love for you, His precious child. Agree with Him on the ways you have sinned (1 John 1:9) (Proverbs 28:13)

- **Thanksgiving** - (Philippians 4:6-7) return to a grateful heart that praises Him for all He has already given you or done in your life

- **Supplication (Intercession/Petition)** - The disciple Peter tells us to "*cast ALL of our cares on Him for He cares for us*". (1 Peter 5:7) Why are you asking for what you're asking for? Is it for selfish desires?
- C. **Read God's Word** - IT IS POWERFUL (Hebrews 4:12) It will transform you. It will empower you. It will change you and it will change your wrong attitudes. Get into the Word and grow closer to God. Began by reading a Proverb a day if that's all you read.
- D. **Giving - Real giving** (Do you just give God out of what's left over of your time, talents, and treasure?) If so, repent and do differently Jesus instructed His disciples, "*Freely you have received, freely give*" (Matthew 10:8). Ask God to help you to become more generous. Generosity is the antidote to be "*rich, and increased with goods*" (Revelation 3:17). America has become so spiritually starved because it is so materially rich. Give regularly to others. Give regularly to the church. It will be good for the church and it will be good for your soul. It is a regular reminder that all of your time, talent, and treasure is from Him.
- E. **Fasting - genuine fasting** Fasting effectively reminds us of the reality that life does not consist merely of the things you possess (see Luke 12:15 and Deuteronomy 8:3) Fasting will deepen your awareness of spiritual, mental, and emotional needs. There is power in it. Jesus told us that some of the greatest spiritual strongholds are not overcome except by fasting and prayer.
- F. **Serving - real service born out of love** Ask God to make you alert and attentive to His voice as He brings needs to your attention and directs you to meet them—in His strength, with His love, and for His glory. As you serve in His name, you will know the joy of the Lord, which is your strength. (See Nehemiah 8:10.)
- Take back time from the demands of this life. Give 20-30 minutes in the early morning hours to making yourself available to get to know your first love again. We are promised that if "*we draw near to God, He will draw near to us*". (James 4:8) That is a promise. You will be surprised how God redeems the time that you give Him.