

You Can Lose It Even Though...

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Never Lose...

You are Invited to...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Getting to Know Each Other Better

1. What is something you remember loving dearly as a child or young adult that you eventually outgrew? Why do you think you outgrew it?

Observing and Understanding God's Word

Luke 15:25-30; Revelation 2:1-6; Jeremiah 2:2-13

2. Why does love—even the most fervent and committed love—sometimes grow cold over time?
3. Biblically evaluate these principles which are presented in Revelation 2:1-6

"Busyness is no substitute for devotion."

"Obedience doesn't always mean adoration."

"Right thinking is no substitute for passionate love."

In what sense is each statement true? Why? In addition to the Revelation passage, what other Bible verses, stories, parables, etc. support the veracity of these statements?

Applying God's Word

4. The best thing we can all do by way of application is to pray for insight from God into our own hearts and into how we are doing in our relationship with Jesus. So, the application this week is to spend time praying – corporately and personally – about this week's message and about how you are doing with Jesus.

Something You Never Want to Lose

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You Can Lose It Even Though . . .

- You're busy serving the Lord
- It can even happen if you've known the Lord for a long time.
- It can happen even if you have all the right answers.

Oswald Chambers, "If we have a purpose of our own, it destroys the simplicity and the leisureliness which ought to characterize the children of God."

"But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes; you killed the fattened calf for him.'" Luke 15:25-30

"It's possible to gain a handle on the Word of God through diligent study and meticulous thought, yet fail to experience within your soul the fire of the Spirit of Him to whom the Scriptures point." (Dwight Edwards, *Revolution Within*, 150)

1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. . . . 6 "Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." Revelation 2:1-3, 6

4 "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love." Revelation 2:4

Never lose . . .

Your heart for God.

"New Testament Christianity is not just a formal, polite, correct and orthodox kind of faith and belief. No! What characterizes it is this element of love and passion, this pneumatic element, this life, this vigor, this abandon, this exuberance." D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"But be very careful to keep the commandment of the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul." Joshua 22:5

You are Invited to...

1. REDISCOVER the love you have left behind.
2. Hold on for dear life to your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Love Him with your first love.