

Revelation 2:4

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Remember the movie “Top Gun”, with Tom Cruise using a song as his pickup line in a bar, as he sang, “*You Lost That Loving Feeling*”? (Sorry, you probably have that song stuck in your head now.) But if you think about it, how many times have you prayed to the Lord that you want to restore your relationship with Him or that you need that loving “feeling” back that you seemed to have lost?

Maybe in your relationship with your spouse or girl/boyfriend you may feel you have lost that loving feeling. All those little, tingly feelings you used to have when you would hear their voice are just not there anymore. The pitter patter of your heart just beats steadily, with no increase in your heart rate at all when they are around.

So the real question is, have you really lost that loving feeling? Well, according to today’s devotional verse, Jesus does not tell the church of Ephesus that they lost that loving “feeling”, but rather *“that you have left your first love.”* In other words, love is not a “feeling”; therefore it couldn’t be lost, but rather that you just walked away (*left*) from *“your first love”*, who is Jesus. I think that is one of the biggest issues with Christians thinking that their relationship with the Lord has been lost, because they no longer have that loving “feeling”.

Well, for me, when I first got saved over 40 years ago, I prayed the sinners pray in the pastor’s office of a little Baptist church with the pastor and my dad. I remember the “feeling” (That’s key here) that I had. I always explain it like I had this hundred pound backpack that I had been carrying around all my life filled with all my sins, and when I gave my life to Jesus, it was like He took that backpack off of me, and I “felt” like (there’s that feel word again) I could actually fly, because the weight of all my sins no longer held me down.

It’s kind of like when you carry ten or more heavy plastic grocery bags full of canned goods and other heavy items all at one time from your car to the kitchen. Each step you take they “feel” heavier and heavier until you put them on the kitchen counter or floor and your arms “feel” light as a feather. Well, that’s how I “felt”, but not just my arms but my entire body. But for the last 40 plus years, I have not felt that way again. So, does that mean that I have lost my salvation or left my first love? No not at all, because once again, we are not to base our salvation on “feelings”.

So, you may have lost that “feeling” of being saved, but nowhere in the bible does it tell us to base our salvation on our feelings, because when we do, then we are using works to be saved, instead of what Jesus did for us on the cross, by dying for our sins

So what do you do if you think (not feel) that you have “left” your first love, Jesus?

It's pretty simple, when you walk away from something that you know you shouldn't have, isn't the obvious answer to turn around and walk back? That's just what Jesus says to do.

† **Rev 2:5a** *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works.*

If Jesus says that *"you have left"*, it means that He is still standing there and hasn't gone anywhere. He's still waiting for you to turn around and come back. The living bible puts verse 5 like this:

† *Think about those times of your first love (how different now!) and turn back to me again and work as you did before* **Rev 2:5a (Living)**

This should be what you are doing in your relationship with the Lord if you have left Him, and in reality you know that you need to come back. These are also wise words if you are having problems in your marriage where you "feel" it has gone flat, and dry, and dull; *Think about those times of your first love (how different now!)* We don't base our love for our spouse on our feelings, because we all know that our "feelings" can change throughout the day. You may wake up grumpy, but by the end of the day, you go to bed feeling great, or vice versa.

Today is the last day of the year, and some of you may be thinking that after the first of the year you will start reading your bible everyday and praying more and do all these things to get back that loving "feeling" for the Lord. Well, if you really want that love relationship back with the Lord that you used to have (not a feeling), don't wait another minute to do it, do it now.

Or maybe you are reading this sometime other than New Years Eve, don't wait another year or month or minute, make that change now. Would you really say that you will start having a better relationship with your spouse in a few weeks instead of fixing it now?

Don't wait until tomorrow or after the first of the year to renew your relationship with the Lord or your spouse, because tomorrow may never come.

Also remember that today is yesterday's tomorrow, so tomorrow is here, right now.

† **James 4:13-14** *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.*

† **Isaiah 44:22** *I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.*

† ***Zechariah 1:3-4 Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Return to Me,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD of hosts. Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.' ' But they did not hear nor heed Me,' says the LORD.***