

Pastor's Sharing —Rekindling the Passion for God (2) Rev. Almon Li (3/5/2015)

Many believers like to read the “Song of Songs” as its narration on the unswerving and loyal love is very attractive. For example, SS 8:6-7 describe love as follows: “Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away.” This kind of love, as described in the scriptures, is very touching as it is strong, unchangeable and life-long.



While our mind would always change, God will never change His. Taking a couple as example, if one of them no longer loves the other, does not regard the latter as the one he/she loves and are not willing to scarify for the other, what the former does for the latter will become routines. This is what hurts the other most.

The sub-theme for this quarter is “rekindling the passion for God”, which is to remind us to reflect and think about our relationship with God. Is our relationship with God close or not? How is our love to God? Have we forsaken our first love to God, as the believers of Church in Ephesus did?

In Greek, “first love” means “the best love”. What is the best and most touching love? It is the very first love to our lover. Many believers love God very much in their hearts when they first believe Him. Whatever they think or say, all are about “my Lord”, “my Lord”.... They are not willing to stop when reading the Bible, because they want to know what the Lord says and do. They would spare time to talk with the Lord intimately even after a busy day of work.

Have you experienced this kind of “first love”? If you have never ever experienced, you should try your best to learn, to think about the Lord’s love and grace, so that they can attract you and let you taste the sweet feeling of first love. You must spend time to maintain this kind of sweet first love.

I believe that many believers had this feeling of first love when they encountered God. However, over time they have gradually ignored this most important but indispensable thing in life – to keep a relationship of love with God – when they are getting busy.

If believers rarely communicate and unite with God, they will gradually lose their love to God. Even if they are seen to be faithful to and loving God, they themselves do know the fact. As their love to God has been faded out, what they do for God is a burden rather than an enjoyment. Brothers and sisters, we must be aware. We should never lose our “first love” to God because communicating and uniting with God is the single most important spring of power in our ministries.

A few believers, who had been zealous in serving God, shared that, no matter how zealous they were, how good their relationship with God was, or how great the miracles they experienced, all these good experiences became nothing when they left God. They had the same sharing, “Being apart from God was very painful and my life was dry. Please pray for me, for I need to refocus on the Lord Jesus Himself.”

Brothers and sisters, only in His love can we restore a healthy self-image, get healed, be set free and built up; can our lives grow continuously and abundantly.

My dearest brothers and sisters, let us make the following prayer and decision: “I want to refocus on Jesus Himself, to review how to love Jesus who saved me, bless me every day and lead me through in my life. Let me reset the priority of my daily life. No matter how busy I am, I must have daily devotion, bible reading, prayers and Sunday services at church. I want to be close to God so that I can know more deeply His love to me. I want to learn how to rekindle my passion for God, so that I can respond to His love.”

I really hope that all brothers and sisters, through these spiritual practices, can say from the bottom of their hearts, “the Lord Jesus is the only one I love in my life.”