

**The Family Prayer Center**  
615 Nassau Street  
Immokalee, FL 34142

### **“First-Love Love” – October Letter 2023**

Dear Friend,

Nothing compares to the first love type of love that we have for Jesus when we first come to know Him. No words can express the feelings of gratitude for sins and guilt being instantly washed away. Even if we come to Him during early childhood when there’s not a long list of sins, at some point, the revelation of what He has done for us creates a first-love mentality.

The instinctive first-love pursuit for Jesus is not to be considered a place of immaturity, but rather the beginning of a lifelong relationship that is to grow sweeter and deeper every day.

I often use the term “laser focused” to express our call from God to receive a Revival, but being laser focused can best be described as our place of fellowship with Christ. Everything must be subordinate to that place of loving Him first above all things. Nothing can ever be allowed to replace the joy of our first love. Jesus is not only the beginning of our first love, but must remain the prized possession in comparison to all other things.

However, is it possible to forget how much we once loved Him at the beginning or at some very close place in our life? Sometimes people will say, “Jesus knows how much I love Him, but I’m just too busy right now to spend the time in prayer that I once did.” The truth is, if we sacrifice our prayer life for anything, we are conceding a level of love that we once had for Jesus. The amazing part is that He will live in the shadows of our life just hoping for the day that something will spark us with a reminder of the love that we once had in spending time in His presence.

Recently, the Lord had me write a short article in regard to what it would be like to forget how precious our first love for Christ really is.

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### **The Heartache of Spiritual Amnesia**

I don’t suppose that there is any heartache worse than losing a loved one to amnesia. Temporary amnesia due to shock or injury to the brain is often curable. But when amnesia settles into a permanent loss of memory due to diseases like dementia, the pain for loved ones can be unimaginable. Think of the childhood sweethearts who share a loving passion for each other that eventually turns into a lifelong marriage with children and grandchildren. They share a million bonding experiences that ever deepen the relationship, and words can never express those moments. They can only be experienced by the two kids who chose to grow old together.

Then think of the pain that is experienced by the cognitively sound spouse as they watch their partner become slowly swallowed up by a disease of memory loss that steals the bond between

them. The phenomenon is of itself in a category of loss that is hardly comparable to any other emotional pain. In some ways, this even surpasses the death of a spouse. In death, there is still the memory of a life shared by two individuals right up to the point of saying goodbye. But what about the person or spouse that becomes debilitated to total memory loss? Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Intimacy is stored in memory. When a person forgets how important another individual is to them, they no longer continue to treat them with the same level of respect in the relationship that they once had. At that point, the relationship can go from intimate respect to casual respect, which is a diminished level.

Again, the pain rests primarily with the cognitively sound spouse. The forgetting spouse is not only losing memory of intimacy, but any awareness of loss.

But what about spiritual amnesia? Is there such a thing? Can a once deep spiritual experience with Jesus actually be forgotten? Can the intimacy that was once shared through an insatiable love become so tarnished by the lust for other things that the individual still believes the depth of the relationship exists but has no real memory of where it once was?

Does Jesus grieve for those who have lost the memory of their first love with Him? First-love love is best seen in the intimacy of a healthy marriage. Jesus describes Himself as the bridegroom and we are His bride.

Jesus speaks to the church at Ephesus in the book of Revelation, chapter 2. This church was highly functional and fulfilling their ministry calls, but Jesus could not help but to express the heartache that He felt by telling them that they had left or forgotten their first love for Him.

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

First love can be understood in two ways. One is through the first love that we had when we came into the Kingdom. All we wanted to do was to be conformed to the image of Christ and help others find that intimacy.

First love can also be understood as Jesus being first above anyone or anything. It is the exact replica of the words of Christ in Luke 14 when He said:

**Luke 14:26** If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Perhaps spiritual amnesia of forgetting who we are or once were can best be expressed in these words of James.

**James 1:23** For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

**James 1:24** For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Have we forgotten what manner of man we once were or were created to be?

We were created to hunger and thirst after Him with a passion superseding all passions.

Have we forgotten to stay in a place where we are as the deer that pants for one more thirsty drink of fellowship with our Heavenly Father?

**Psalm 42:1** As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

**Psalm 42:2** My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

The Lord of Heaven weeps for fellowship with His saints. He weeps and intercedes for us that any amnesia of what we once had not only is restored to us, but comes to a greater place of intimacy in these last days.

Together in Christ, we will not lose this battle for this region and Revival, but we will fulfill our call by not forgetting what manner of man we have become in Christ Jesus.

Amen

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Candy and I want to thank you for your undying fidelity in seeking first the kingdom of God in your daily walk with Him. Thank you so much for your loving prayers and support.

I WILL SEE YOU IN THE REVIVAL!

Blessings,  
Pastor Bronc