

First Love, Part II

Revelation 2:4-5

*Yet this I hold against you: You have forsaken your first love.
Remember the height from which you have fallen!
Repent and do the things you did at first.*

Last week we looked at some of the things that happened in your life when you first came into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Today I wanted to look at verse 5 and particularly this sentence, "Repent and do the things you did at first."

The word repent that Jesus uses in this exhortation comes from putting the word mind (or mentality) and the word change together. The idea behind this single Greek word for repent is, "with a changed mind," do the things you did at first.

Have you ever wanted to change and/or do you see the need to change now? Why? Write down some areas in your life where you want to see change. Discuss these with a friend.

New Year's resolutions are abundant. Many people choose the coming new year to make changes in their lives. Did you do that? Have you noticed that many times that New Year's declarations didn't come about? Why do you think that is?

In order for lasting change to come to your life, you must know how to repent. Repentance is more than confession of sin (I John 1:9). Confession is very important, but only part of the process. For our study today, read some of the following verses, meditate, pray/think about what you've read and write down or discuss with a friend some of your discoveries.

Read I Samuel 15:29 – What amazing thing did you learn about God? How can this benefit you? Also read James 1:7.

Read I Samuel 10:6 & 9 – How did Saul change? How can that happen to you?

Read Jeremiah 7:1-7 – The Lord is speaking through the prophet to people who needed to change. Read carefully and write down some things that concern the Lord.

Read Jesus' words in Matthew 18:1-4 which was to his disciples, who had on their minds to become great. In verse 3, Jesus gave an example to the change he would like to see in your life. Describe in your own words what you would look like with the mindset of a little child.

In verse 5 Jesus gives another word for this child-like mentality. What is it? What does it mean to humble yourself? Do a word study using your concordance to gather more insight.

Transformation also means change. Read these familiar passages and write down your discoveries (II Corinthians 3:17-18, Romans 12:1-2).

Now, take that area that you would like to see change come to. How can you use this study to bring lasting change to your life?