

# we never abandoned our first love?

“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”

## Rev 2:4

There is often something exciting about “new things”. Whether it’s a new job, car, gadget, or even our relationship with God. Over time we can lose the zeal that we had at first, as it becomes an everyday part of our life, familiar and comfortable. What difference would it make if we were as passionate for Christ now, as we were when we were first saved?

### What Happened in Ephesus?

In the early years of the church:

- They were zealous for God (Acts 19:18-20)
- Their passion for the Gospel caused uproar in the city (Acts 19:23-41)
- They were known for their faith and love for God’s people (Eph 1:15)
- They were a united, multi-cultural church of Jews and Gentiles (Eph 2:11-22)
- They needed instruction on how to live Christian lives (Eph 4-6)
- They loved Jesus whole-heartedly (Eph 6:24)

Later on, some started to drift away from sound doctrine (1 Tim 1:3-4)

Jesus commends the church for their deeds, works, perseverance, intolerance of evil and their discernment (Rev 2:2-3,6)

He also rebukes them, telling them they have fallen far from what they did at first.

It appears that, over time, they had lost the love, passion and zeal for God that they’d had at the beginning.

### Remembering our First Love

When relationships become “stale”, it’s often a result of things becoming routine/habitual, or that life has got in the way - work, family, hobbies, distractions, other responsibilities etc have gradually taken the place of quality time together. The same thing can happen with our relationship with God.

When we are first saved, zeal for God can be more evident in our lives than in the lives of more mature believers around us. Spiritual disciplines (habits) are an important, part of our Christian walk, but we need to ensure that passion for God continues to be evident in our lives by consistently drawing near to Him (Heb 10:19-23), encouraging one another (Heb 3:13) and spurring each other on to the love and good works that God has for us (Heb 10:24).

We also need to ensure that we don’t become so involved in life (even if what we are doing appears to be good/Godly) that we forget the basics of what God has called us to: Loving Him (Mat 22:37), loving others (Mat 22:39) and discipling all nations (Mat 28:18-20).

**This Month’s Challenge...** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas in your life where your Christian walk has become habitual/stale. And ask God to remind you of the passion you had when you were first saved. Prioritise quality time with Him. Share how you are feeling with a fellow Christian so that you can encourage and spur one another on in your zeal for God and the work He wants to do through your lives.  
**At the end of the month, look back at all of the What If’s, and continue to grow in every area.**