

maybe some of you are sorry, but i'm back. the enemy tried to tell me that i was trying to draw too much sympathy and attention to myself. also tried to tell me that i might have offended some people. i listened to the wrong voice. i seek not your sympathies but your prayers. and i seek to only encourage and entice others to know and love my Jesus as i do.

had a visit from the pastor and his wife yesterday. their words made me realize that this is fruitful and my only way of serving Jesus at this time. if a preacher can find value in it, then should i toss it aside? just hoped for more feedback i suppose, but lives are busy. delay me if you will, but please never delay Jesus.

saw an evangelist the other day that mother and i used to watch back in the early eighties. he is no longer than young vibrant man that i remember watching. but one could tell his love for Jesus has only grown deeper. his emotion rose up, as it does so often in us old people. i watched him talk about his Lord and how the years had only deepened his devotion. often i regret that i cry so easily. i even cry at television shows when they even hint at something. but then He says in eze 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." i would rather have that heart of flesh than a heart of stone. just wish i didn't cry so easily.

i know the spirit is not strictly emotion. we are not to go by our emotions and let them control us. we are to go by what the word says and not the circumstances.

can the spirit of man really connect to His Spirit without emotion? love itself is an emotion and the word says that God is love. sadly, the devil has even distorted God's meaning of love from it's pure intent.

when one comes to know and understand the character of God, the meaning of love becomes clear. in His holiness and righteousness, He allows it to proceed from within. so proceeds the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself." luke 10:27 one's emotion of love envelopes them as they enter into the Spirit realm.

which brings us to rev 2:4. "you have left you first love." how many of us who have really been in love can remember how it was? i remember the desire to be near him as often as i could. and the preparation to meet him, oh the butterflies in my stomach. how i used to primp and make sure everything was perfect. then when i was with him, i was always attentive to see what would please him. it was my heart's desire to always do the thing that pleased him. in that i felt complete.

this was just an earthly relationship. how should we then feel towards the God who created us and even gave His all to restore us to Himself. do you still feel that excitement as you open His word to learn of Him? when you stand in His presence in prayer? or have the years dimmed your desires and allowed you to expect Him to grace you with His presence. or even worse, have become content without it.

do you joyfully shout His praises or do you even acknowledge Him anymore? Jesus says "whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." mark 10:32 it won't be saint peter greeting us at heaven's gate. it will be Jesus saying, "Father, this one is mine". "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus". 1 tim 2"5

it will not be our deeds which get us in. they will get us rewards, but not admittance. it will be the blood of Jesus only which purchases that ticket. there is nothing we can do to earn it. a ticket paid in full and free for the asking. free to those who recognize the state they are in and how far they have fallen short. as isa 64:6 says, "all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags". that first love engulfs us as we taste and see that the Lord is good. may we never swerve from there. may we never hear that phrase from His lips. "i never knew you." He wants to know us "intimately".

pastor rodney that came over the other day told me how he had preached on the ten leper that were healed. only one returned to give God glory. we questioned whether the other nine retained their healing. knowing the nature of God, i do not think He would revoke it. but the sin they continued in certainly would. it is so important to acknowledge God and His goodness. and then to love Him "with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind".

let us all retain that "first love" and allow it to

grow into that intimacy that He desires to share. He is the groom of the church. He desires to share Himself with us. we shall know even as we have been known. is that not a glorious hope to cling to?

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