

TWELVE EVIDENCES THAT WE HAVE LOST OUR "FIRST LOVE" FOR THE LORD.

**"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
Revelation 2:4**

1. WHEN MY DELIGHT IN THE LORD IS NO LONGER AS GREAT AS MY DELIGHT IN SOMEONE ELSE, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart..."
Mark 12:30

2. WHEN MY SOUL DOES NOT LONG FOR TIMES OF RICH FELLOWSHIP IN GOD'S WORD OR IN PRAYER, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy...soul..."
Mark 12:30

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

3. WHEN MY THOUGHTS DURING LEISURE MOMENTS DO NOT REFLECT UPON THE LORD, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy...mind..."
Mark 12:30

"...God is not in all his thoughts."
Psalm 10:4

4. WHEN I CLAIM TO BE "ONLY HUMAN" AND EASILY GIVE IN TO THOSE THINGS I KNOW DISPLEASE THE LORD, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy...strength..."
Mark 12:30

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love..."
John 15:10

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."
John 14:15

5. WHEN I DO NOT WILLINGLY AND CHEERFULLY GIVE TO GOD'S WORK OR TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him
1 John 3:17

6. WHEN I CEASE TO TREAT EVERY CHRISTIAN BROTHER AS I WOULD THE LORD, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you..."
John 13:34

7. WHEN I VIEW THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST AS RESTRICTIONS TO MY HAPPINESS RATHER THAN EXPRESSIONS OF HIS LOVE, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."
John 14:21

8. WHEN I INWARDLY STRIVE FOR THE ACCLAIM OF THIS WORLD RATHER THAN THE APPROVAL OF THE LORD, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."
1 John 2:15
"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."
John 15:19

9. WHEN I FAIL TO MAKE CHRIST OR HIS WORDS KNOWN BECAUSE I FEAR REJECTION, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you..."
John 15:20

10. WHEN I REFUSE TO GIVE UP AN ACTIVITY WHICH I KNOW IS OFFENDING A WEAKER BROTHER, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not (with love)..."
Romans 14:15

11. WHEN I BECOME COMPLACENT TO SINFUL CONDITIONS AROUND ME, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."
Matthew 24:12

12. WHEN I AM UNABLE TO FORGIVE ANOTHER FOR OFFENDING ME, I HAVE LOST MY "FIRST LOVE."

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar..."
1 John 4:20