

## “ Back to the Basics ! ”

*“To the angel of the church (in) \_\_\_\_\_ write: ...I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance ...and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. **But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place, unless you repent. ...Let anyone who has an ear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.”***  
(Revelation 2: 1-5, 7) (NIV)

Fill in the blank line with **your** name and read the passage again. Then fill in the blank line with your **church’s** name and read again.

Remember the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38- 42. Martha and Mary were sisters and Jesus came to their house as a guest. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened intently to what he had to say, while Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. Martha said to Jesus, “*Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself ? Tell her to help me !*” The Lord answered, “*Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*”

You may be serving God with energy and faithfulness – just like Martha did. What you may have failed to confront is the issue of first love because you are so busy doing all the right things. You go to church. You read your Bible. You offer a cup of cold water to a stranger. Isn’t that the same as love ? You serve your Lord because you love Him – you may simply have left the joy and intimacy of being with Christ out of the relationship. You may have become so busy with your daily tasks that you have neglected to sit at His feet. When that happens, service can no longer bring pleasure.

Jesus wants you to see that. Jesus would have you shift your focus from the lifeless things you are doing now to the loving things you did in the beginning. Always remember, living for Jesus is **not only what you do** for Him, **but what He does** in and through you as you surrender yourself to Him in response to His love.

If you are overwhelmed or frustrated by all the busyness in life, maybe it is time to go back to the basics. When you first met Christ, you probably talked to Him frequently. **How is your prayer life today ?** Has it become rigid and routine ? Maybe it is time to find a new place or new time or start a prayer journal. Take a fresh approach to your study of God’s holy, inspired Word. The more you know about someone, the more you have to talk about. Once again, think of the things you first did – **go back to the basics !**