

# OUR FIRST LOVE

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**All quotes are from class speaker unless otherwise noted.**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

“Quite often people ask me, ‘How can I pray for you?’ I always answer them the same way. I want them to pray that where ever I go and whatever I do, I will never leave my first love.” – Dr. Bill Bright, CRU

Revelation 2:1-5

aphiemi (greek): to neglect, release, send away or to divorce

Sometimes we’re so busy serving God that we neglect spending time loving the God we serve.

Barrenness of busyness.

The weakness of our hunger for God is not because He is unsavory, but because we keep ourselves stuffed with other things - John Piper.

It’s not that the pull is too hard.

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

#1: Remember.

- what it was like when we first met Christ.
- reminisce
- be involved in the life of someone who has just become a Christian

#2: Regretful Remorse.

- acknowledge that we have fallen
- If you feel far away from God, ask yourself who moved.

#3: Repent.

- metanoeo: to perceive afterwards, hence to change one’s mind.
- About face, forward march.

#4: Renew.

- do the works you did at first

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#5: Retain.

- retain the knowledge
- a lamp stand held a candle, which gives off light
- light represents God's glory. no light, no glory. they would be getting all the glory themselves

To Glorify God = to make God famous

Fast and Feast.

Things we need to fast from and disciplines we need to feast on.

Fast:

- trivial pursuit
- is this a tool, a toy or a tangent?
- noise

Feast:

- on God's Word: Read it, study it, memorize it.
- look for ways to feast on quiet

Since when do you want to be an average Christian?

1. Write down words and phrases that describe your relationship with God when you first became a Christian.
2. Write down words and phrases that describe your relationship with God now.
3. Write down one distraction you feel the Lord is calling you to fast from + one discipline to feast on.

How we start isn't near as important as how we finish.

Sin makes you stupid.

He's not trying to get you back (payback), he's trying to bring you back.

Recalculating.