

*What you did to get something is  
generally what you need to do to keep it*

December 27

When John wrote the book of Revelation, Jesus spoke to him about the church in Ephesus. This was a good church that labored, was very productive, had great patience, hated evil, and protected the doctrine. All this they did in an untiring manner for the sake of Jesus and His name. However, Jesus had one thing against them: they had left their first love. What was Jesus referring to? He was simply stating a principle that the basics of Christianity will never change and no matter how productive or involved we may seem unless we are truly connected to the life-flowing relationship which comes from an intimate relationship with Jesus, all of our work is for nothing. It is the same with any relationship, including your marriage and/or job. What you did to get something is generally what you need to do to keep it. Return to the basics and don't forget your first love.

*Prayer for Today*

Father God, show me my error and the true motivation of my heart. Help me to not forget my first love and what I did to get where I am. Teach me to value the basics of life and relationship as I continue to serve in Your Kingdom.

*Scriptures for Today*

Revelation 2:1-5 To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, "These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 'I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place-unless you repent.'" (NKJV)