

Fuel the Fire 08-02-15

Thank: Lord, provision of rest for me.

- Elders, LEFC body.

Raise hands: at least 2nd gen Cxn (define), Cxn more than 5 years.

- Possible falling into subtle trap I did & church at Ephesus.

40 yrs after Paul launched church in Ephesus it seems to be perfect church

characterized by service, faithfulness & sanctification. Acts 19:1, 20:29-32, Rev 2:1-3

- JC is praising them for labor to point of exhaustion.
 - Not spectators but involved & active teaching, sharing, helping others.
- faithful: patience & endurance.
- Not lost sensitivity to sin. Endure evil but not evil men.
- Solid doctrinally which enabled spiritual discernment.
 - Only teachers faithful & true to Word of God welcomed.
 - LEFC continue stand on Word regardless of world/ US gov stance
- They are doing it all for glory of JC...My namesake..

Had great leadership (Paul, Timothy pastor), did/believed all right things for right reason (JC glory) but had fatal flaw...love/heart grew cold toward JC. Rev 2:4

- probably didn't even realize passion/joy was now duty. Honeymoon over:
 - A church gets like that when its people get like that.
 - 2nd & 3rd gen (1st gen mostly gone) strong tradition, not intense love.

Lost simple perspective: Loving JC center of saving relationship w/Him. Mk 12:28b-30, Jn 21:15-17, 1 Pet 1:8a, 1 Jn 4:19-21

- JC's love for us is fixed. Zeph 3:17, Jer 31:3, Ps 147:10-11
 - Issue not JC love for us but our love for JC.
- All Cxns love JC to some degree. But intensity/level of that love can change.
 - Scripture tells how to "return" to passionate 1st love. Rev 2:5

Remember....How it was.

- Time when didn't know much/accurate theology but passionately loved JC.
 - Doctrine's purpose: develop TRUE & INTIMATE relationship w/JC
- If 2nd or ^ gen Cxn...find out how it was for 1st gen Cxns.
 - Principle reflected many times in OT.
 - OT share testimonies when came to markers/festivals

Repent. Confess your coldness in worship, serving w/o joy, only doing duty, love knowledge/theology more than JC.

- Change....repeat things you did at 1st.
 - Spouse: Made time, constant thinking about, initiated communication
 - Read Bible, served body/others, pray, fellowship w/Cxns.
- Cxn life about heart attitude (of love) much more than conduct.
 - If heart is right then service/offering acceptable & delight not duty.
 - If have children's hearts their labors motivated by love not duty.

Growing in your love for JC? Desire him more now than in the past?

- JC can see what we can't. He can see our heart.
 - Ask HS cause your 1st love to increase constantly into a fuller love for our JC.