

REKINDLING THE FLAME

An old lady had been married for many years when suddenly her husband died. This is what she put on his tombstone:

THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE HAS GONE OUT

Not long afterward she met, fell in love with and married another man. After thinking at some length about it, she went to the monument maker and had him add this to the tombstone:

THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE HAS GONE OUT

P.S. I Found A Match

Reminds me of what happened to the church at Ephesus. There was a lot of activity in that congregation. They were commended for their perseverance, their refusal to tolerate false doctrine, and their labor for the cause of Christ. But there was something missing. The "light of their life" had gone out. They lost the first love they had for Christ, and it had reached the point that they were doing lots of "religious works" without love as a motivator.

"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...." **Rev. 2:4-5a**

Perhaps you've found yourself in a similar situation. You're doing all the "right" things, but that love you once had for Christ just isn't there anymore. Perhaps you need to find a match and rekindle the flame. It's important to do that before the light truly goes out in our lives: ..or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place." **Rev. 2:5**

HOW? Rekindling the flame has to do with OUR INTERACTION...

1 John 4:19-21

We love, because He first loved us.

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Matt 24:12

"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

Phil 1:9-10

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

1 Thess 4:9-12

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, 11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, 12 so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

2 Thess 1:3

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater;

Heb 6:10

For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Heb 13:1-3

Let love of the brethren continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. 3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

1 Peter 1:22-23 REKINDLING THE FLAME

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Rev 3:2

"Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

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