



# sermon study summary

Reclaiming Zeal

## INTRODUCTION

In order to witness a corporate revival in our church, our community, and in our country today, each of us must play our part. A corporate revival can only be ushered in when we first revive our individual relationship with Jesus. In this four-part sermon series, “Revive Us Again”, Pastor Ashwin discussed how we must reclaim prayer, the Word, the Spirit, and in this last part of the series, reclaim zeal.

Zeal is about loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. As followers of Jesus, we ought to: “never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord (Rom 12:11)”. In Leviticus 6:12, God instructs us that, “the fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out”. Just as our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are the altar. Our zeal should never cease.

However, like a relationship between married couples, it is easy to lose that “first love”, the spark that occurs during the start of a relationship when spending time with each other is a priority. As the monotony of married life kicks in, that spark can diminish. This can also happen in our spiritual life. When we first became Christians, we were in awe of our salvation and had a vibrant relationship with Jesus. Gradually, however, our love for Him could grow dim, and we lose our “first Love”. How can we continue to be zealous for Christ? We can do so by heeding the warning Jesus gave the church of Ephesus in Revelations 2.

In their early days, the church of Ephesus was characterized by their undying love for Jesus (Eph 6:24). However, after a period of many years, we read in Revelations that although Jesus commended them for their hard work, their perseverance, and their doctrinal convictions (v2-3), He brought a serious charge before them when He said: “Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken the love you had at first (v4)”. Amid the frenzy of church activities, they had sidelined what was most important – their **individual walk with God**. Jesus warned the church of Ephesus to, “consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first (v5a)”. If we do not obey Him, He will remove our lampstand from its place (v5b). Left to our own strength, we will fail to be a church of impact. Verse 5a teaches us that to reclaim zeal, we must Remember, Repent, and Repeat.

**Remember.** We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). He took our place (2 Cor 5:21) and bore the wrath of God. How humbling it is to realize that our Lord is zealous for us! Let us never stop being in awe of our salvation.

**Repent.** If there are other things vying for our attention and competing with our “first Love”, we need to repent.

**Repeat.** We need to reclaim prayer, the Word, and the Spirit. Prayer, the influence of the Word, and the infilling of the Spirit ought to be ongoing in our Christian life.

May we return to our “first Love” and be characterized by our zealousness for the Lord. Was there a time when you were closer to Jesus than you are today? It all starts with a personal revival. Along with the Psalmist in Psalm 85:6, let us cry out to God: “Will you not revive us again, that our hearts may rejoice in you?”

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# sermon study guide

## IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Who introduced you to CSC? What made you return and stay?
2. Who introduced you to CSC? What made you return and stay?

## UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Rev 2:1-7, Lev 6:12, and Rom 12:11

3. In Revelations, Jesus commends the church of Ephesus; however, He also gives them a warning that they should repent and return to their “first Love”. Despite their hard work, perseverance, and sound doctrine, how were they failing in their efforts to please God?
4. What are the consequences the church will face when the members fail to keep the “fire” alive in their own hearts?

## OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. What steps might you take this week to revive your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ?  
Reflect upon how the assurance of reconciliation, both now and in eternity, encourages us never to forget our “first Love”.
6. Pastor Ashwin mentions we need to reclaim prayer, the Word, the Spirit, and zeal. As a community of unique individuals, what actions can we take this week to lead to a corporate Revival in our Church?

### **For Personal Reflection/Prayer:**

***“Was there a time when you were closer to Jesus than you are today?”***

***When asked what the secret of revival is, British Evangelist Gipsy Smith said, “Go home. Take a piece of chalk. Draw a circle around yourself. Then pray, ‘O Lord, revive everything inside this circle.’” It all starts with a personal revival. May the cry of the Psalmist be our cry – “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? (Psa 85:6)”***

## THE WORD (NIV)

### **Revelations 2:1-7**

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

<sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

### **Leviticus 6:12**

The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it.

### **Romans 12:11**

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

### **Ephesians 6:24**

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

### **Phil 1:21**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

### **1 John 4:19**

We love because he first loved us.