



Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

Pastor Mike Suarez Sr.

Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2023

1 JOHN 4:7-9

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” God is Love and He gave us His Love when Jesus died on the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins and the salvation of our soul. We were all lost and separated from God because of the fall of Adam and Eve. We were empty vessels

trying to fill an emptiness in our hearts with all that the world had to offer. We always ended up empty. We were searching for love in the wrong places and always came up empty and confused. It was when we accepted Jesus as our Savior that He gave us Love and our empty heart was filled with the Love of God. The Holy Spirit came into your heart and you were transformed and change by the power of God. For the first time in your life you tasted the pure love of God and you were in your ‘First Love’. You were able to love everyone, you wanted

to please God, you wanted to tell the whole world about Jesus and you were on fire for God. Why were you on fire for God? Why was God's love flowing like rivers of living water from within your heart? Because you were in your First Love! What is the reason Christians don't Love God, lost souls, backsliders and fellow Christians like when they first got saved?

BECAUSE THEY HAVE FORSAKEN THEIR FIRST LOVE

In your walk with God something happened. In your training for ministry. In your serving in ministry. In your marriage. Reality set in and you found out that you were enlisted into the army of the Living God. You begin to experience spiritual warfare and the devil some how began to remove your eyes off Jesus. You put them on your failures, your problems, on others, on your storms, on your trials and battles. And slowly you drifted away from God and your prayer closet. Instead of God's love flowing from your heart; bitterness, frustration, anger, unbelief, battle fatigue, is flowing from your heart. Why? Because the devil got us to break away from God. Jeremiah gives us the answer in 2:13, "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." "The fountain of living waters" is the Love of God that the devil stole from us. 'have dug their own cisterns' are Christians trying to serve God without a personal relationship with Him and walking in the power of the flesh. Serving and Loving God with your limited human love. 'Broken

cisterns that cannot hold water' are the Christians who have broken fellowship with God and His Love is no longer flowing from within their hearts. They are empty and dead Christians. God gave us Love, His Son Jesus so that we can share that Love with the lost souls, the hurting backslider and the struggling Christians. Broken cisterns that cannot hold water cannot love the lost, backslider, and hurting Christians with God's Love. They love with their human love, which is limited. That's why they don't care anymore for others. It is a burden now to serve God and to serve in ministry. Everything bothers you now. Broken Cisterns are cold and dead spiritually and the Love that God gave them has been lost. They left their first love as recorded in Revelations 2:4, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first." Jeremiah said it this way, "They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns," God gave us His Love and He expects us to take care of that Love. Why? Because the Love of God that is flowing from within the Christian is what is going to change the lost soul, touch the backslider and encourage the Christians who are struggling. The Love of God restored all the Disciples who had failed Jesus when they ran when it got hot. John 21:3-4 ***The Love of God is being manifested to discouraged disciples. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. John 21:15-17 ***Jesus is filling the heart of Peter with the

Love of God once again after his failure. “When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” (Your wife and children) again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. “Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”



Jesus was saying to Peter, Come back to your ‘First Love! Peter, God gave you His Love so you could take it to a lost world. Your love is limited. Peter, the devil has no weapon against the Love He has giving you. Peter, if you are going to love me, love me with the Love of God flowing from within your heart. Peter, if you are going to love the lost soul, love them with the Love God gave you. Peter, if you are going to love all the backsliders I am going to send your way, love them with the Love God gave you at the Cross. Peter, if you are going to love all the

discouraged, hurting, and weak Christians, love them with the Love God has given you with the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter finally snapped and said to Jesus in verse 17, “Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked him the third time because the Holy Spirit opened his eyes to what Jesus was telling him: to come back to his First Love! Peter had left his First Love, and God was saying to Peter: if you are going to “Feed my lambs.”- “Take care of my sheep.”- “Feed my sheep.” You will need to love them with My Love and not your human love. God gave us His Love to love a lost world, lost soul, backsliders and all Christians.

IF YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR FIRST LOVE, REPENT AND GO BACK TO YOUR FIRST LOVE, JESUS