



June 19, 2014

First Love

By Teresa Hampton

June is the traditional wedding month, when couples begin lifelong journeys. Perhaps the attraction began slowly, but as time passed, the relationship blossomed into love. Now each wants to know as much as possible about the other. When they receive love letters, they read them over and over again. The words are precious because they come from the heart and mind of the one they love. Long talks into late evenings are the norm. Time is not an issue. They want to tell the world that they've found *the one* who completes them. That's just the way it is when you love someone.

This brings to mind some thoughts about our love for God. When we first came to know Jesus and put him on in baptism, our love for him was intense. We wanted to know as much as possible about the Lord. We had long talks together day and night. Even with busy schedules, we made time to be with him. His written letters (the Bible) were precious. We immersed ourselves reading the words that revealed his mind to us, and revealed all that he desires for the one who loves him.

Reflecting on our relationship with God today, has our love for him faded or diminished? Do we hear ourselves saying something like the following? "I wish I had more time for prayer." "Reading and studying God's word is something I have to *make* myself do." "I don't get anything out of worship." "Telling the lost about Jesus is not one of my talents."

If we hear these words coming from our lips, or if we think them, it is time to reevaluate our relationship with the Lord. If we love him, we will *want* to talk to him often. If we love him, we'll hunger to *read* and *meditate* often on his word. If we love him, we'll give ourselves an attitude adjustment concerning worship, recognizing that it is not about us, but about adoring, honoring, and praising God. If we love Jesus, we will be *anxious* to tell others about his sacrificial love, his amazing grace, and how he completes our lives in every way!

Today's Verse: *"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).*

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