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## **GOING BACK TO THE FIRST LOVE *and* REPENTANCE OF DEAD WORKS.**

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**Revelation 2:1** Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things says he that holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;  
**2** I know your works, and your labor, and your patience, and how you cannot bear them which are evil: and you have tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them liars:  
**3** And have borne, and have patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and have not fainted.  
**4** Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against you, because you have left your first love.  
**5** Remember therefore from whence you are fallen, and repent, and **do the first works**; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove your candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.  
**6** But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.  
**7** He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Here our precious Lord Jesus speaks to this church, the church at Ephesus, which represents many believers in these days. And notice that the Lord commends their works. He says: I know your works. He commends their works.

This is the focus of many believers or many ministries of the Lord or even pastors. They focus on doing works for the Lord. And the Lord acknowledges that, He does not deny the fact. But He mentions something, He says: I have something against you. And this something, in spite of all the works of this church, because of this one thing, Jesus says: I am going to remove your lamp stand.

And this is the danger when God's children, God's ministers focus on works, miracles, signs and wonders. And because they see the mighty works of God in their lives, they see signs and wonders; they think God is pleased with them.

Jesus is waking us up! He commends all their good works, and then He says: Because you left your first love...Repent!

Notice Jesus did not say repent of adultery, repent of lying, repent of gossip, repent of criticizing others, or repent of judging others. He says repent because you forsook your first love, and if you do not repent of this sin I will remove your lamp stand.

And notice something very amazing in verse 5,

Revelation 2:5 **Remember therefore from whence You are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove your candlestick out of his place, except you repent.**

Amazing, Jesus says: I know your works; he mentions all the good works and then He says go back to the **first works**. What does the Lord mean by that? Let's go back to John chapter 6. After Jesus feeds the multitude he goes away from them, they follow Him and in verse 26 Jesus says,

John 6:26 You seek me, not because you saw the miracles, but because you did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

He says,

27 Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him has God the Father sealed.

Notice verse 28 now,

John 6:28 Then said they unto him: **What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?**

Jesus answers; and here is the revelation for the question asked before, what does Jesus mean about going back to the first works in Revelation chapter 2 verse 5,

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that you believe on him whom he has sent.**

Jesus told the church of Ephesus to repent of forsaking their first love and do the first works, even when they had a lot of works. The first works Jesus refers to is in John 6 verse 29; **believe on Him whom He has sent**. These are the first works, the works of God that He desires, that you go back to your first love, that you believe on Jesus Christ the Son of God, trust him, not to seek works but to seek Him and to know Him, to be in love with Him, that you love Him by keeping His commandments.

Jesus said if you love me, you keep my commandments. He did not say if you love me you do works for me. He said if you love me keep my commandments! So, I seek to know Jesus, I press in to love Him by keeping His commandments. And then there are works that proceed out of knowing Him. These are not works that you seek to do for Him, these are works He prepared in advanced for you to do by the power of the Holy Spirit

Now let's go to Hebrews. I would like to read chapter 5 verses 13 and 14.

Hebrews 5:13 For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.  
 14 But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Notice now in verse 1 of chapter 6,

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance from dead works**, and of faith toward God,

So, notice here that he is talking to mature believers not babies still receiving the milk. He is talking to mature people that receive the strong meat of the word. By continuing to use the word of righteousness, they have built up senses to discern good and evil, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, notice what it says in verse 1 of chapter 6. Because we are mature believers therefore let's leave the principles of the doctrine of Christ and **let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance of dead works.**

See carefully that two things mentioned of the foundations of the doctrines of Christ, are **repentance of dead works** and **faith towards God**. **The foundation of this doctrine is repentance of dead works** and faith towards God. It does not say repentance of sins. Let this sink deep in you.

Remember what you read in Revelation 2: 1-7 about the church of Ephesus and in John chapter 6 about the works of God, and now focus in Hebrews chapter 6 verse 1. Are you getting the picture now? Do you see the relation between these verses?

This is very foundational and this foundation has been missing in the church for ages and has been ignored for many. **He says this is foundational**. We need to have this foundation established so that we can go to perfection.

There is a perfect work that God is doing and He will accomplish it. But it is important for us to believe it, to understand it and not fall in the trap of religion, of doing good works for God. God has His angels to do works for Him. God wants relationship with us, relationship in Love.

When my wife does some works for me, she does not do them to try to please me. Because I love her, I am pleased with her, regardless of the works she does. The works she does, she does because she loves me; whatever I do, I do because of love for her. So we do not try to please one another we are pleased with one another regardless of circumstances, regardless of works.

The devil establishes in the mind of the world to try to do things to please others. So, the relationships in the world are based on performance. If it is good performance, it is good relationship. If there is bad performance there is bad relationship or war. We have to repent of this mindset. Our relationship with God is not based on performance; our relationship with God is based on Love. Therefore the works proceed out of love and not out of performance. Do you understand what I am saying? Are you receiving new revelation?

It is important to establish this foundation in us, so we can go to perfection. These are the last days before Jesus comes back and we need to be in right relationship with God. In relationship not based on performance or works, but in relationship based on the first love and trust and belief. Because this is the work of God: to believe on Him. To believe on Him, I have to know Him, love him, trust Him, set my heart upon Him.

Now examine yourselves. When you first came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, how much time did you spend with Him in prayer, in the Word and worship? Now, ask yourself this question, are you spending time now with Him like you did when you first became a believer?

We need to repent; we need to repent of dead works. And say: Holy Spirit show me where did I miss it? Where did I fall? Help me to go back to the first love, to the simplicity of the devotion to Christ, to love Him and spend time with Him, because I love Him. This is why the repentance of dead works is foundational. And many believers take this sin for granted, they do not even think about it as sin. But this is so dangerous, that Jesus threatens to remove the lamp stand of that church at Ephesus, as we read in Revelation chapter 2, because of this sin.

So, please come back to see things as God sees them. Repent of the dead works; put your faith in God alone. Believe on Him, trust Him, focus in keeping His commandments and changing to His image, changing your character, your attitudes, your behaviors, changing more to be like Him, from glory to glory by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As I shared in the previous sessions of the seminar, the key for change is the renewing of our minds; to start to think like He thinks, not to think like the world, not to think like others. I want to have the mind of Christ, I want to have the heart of God, I want to have the voice of the Holy Spirit.

And this is the work of God in us. Do you understand what I am saying?

Many of the works we do are produced because sometimes we **feel guilty in our conscience** that we are not doing enough for the Lord. Do you understand what I am saying? Sometimes our consciences convict us that we are not doing enough works for the Lord. And that conscience pushes us to try to do works for the Lord. And what this is producing is **dead works**.

Now, do you know that this conscience is an **evil conscience**? Let's look in Hebrews chapter 9 verse 14,

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience from dead works** to serve the living God?

So, first I have to repent of dead works and then I need the power of the blood of Christ to purge my conscience of dead works. But deeper than the blood to cleanse my conscience from dead works, look what it says in chapter 10 of Hebrews verse 22,

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience**, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Focus on these verses. I need the blood, the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus to cleanse my heart from an evil conscience. Did you ever think to pray such prayer?

Let's go back in order, step by step:

I **repent of dead works**, and then I ask Jesus to sprinkle my heart, **with His blood and cleanse me from an evil conscience**. Then I need **the power of the blood to cleanse my conscience from dead works**.

Are you with me? This is very powerful revelation. It brought transformation to my life when the Lord revealed it to me. This allowed me to leave the principles of the doctrines of Christ and go forward to perfection. A perfection that it is not I who is trying to produce it, a perfection where is me trusting God to accomplish it in me, as I seek to know Him, to know His Word, to trust Him, to keep His

commandments, to love Him, to be in the first love continuously, cleaving unto Him, that He is my life. Whether I have ministry or not, whether I am doing works or not, my relationship with Him is based on intimacy, on love, and not on performance.

And when He wants me to produce works, He tells me what He wants me to do. It is not what I think I should do, it is what He wants me to do. And I let Him in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure. It is not in my might nor in my power but by the Holy Spirit. So, who is doing the works? Is it me? Or God who dwells in me? It is the Lord. God who dwells in me.

This is why Paul told the Philippians,

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**  
**13 For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

...It is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Amen?

And notice what it says, in Hebrews 10 verse 22,

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies **washed with pure water.**

What does it mean by pure water? What water is he talking about?

The blood of Christ cleanses from sin; the blood of Christ cleanses from evil conscience, the blood of Christ cleanses our conscience from dead works. But, what does wash our bodies? Pure water, what is this pure water that has power to wash our bodies?

We read in Ephesians chapter 5 verse 26,

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with **the washing of water by the word,**  
27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

There is power in the Word of God. This Word has power to sanctify us and cleanse us and wash us clean, as we spend time with the Lord focusing on Him, seeking to know Him, to know His Word as He reveals it to us, and not having it as head knowledge but as revelation by the Holy Spirit. So, we have our bodies washed spiritually by the Word of God.

This gives more revelation of what Jesus said in the epistle of John chapter 15 verse 3 to 5,

**John 15:3** Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you abide in me.

5 I am the vine, you *are* the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.

So, here is the conclusion of what we started to read in the book of Revelation chapter 2. You are clean through the Word that I have spoken unto you (said Jesus), abide in me and I in you, come back to that first love abiding in Him and Him in you. That first love, perfect union with Him. Spend time with Him to worship Him, to seek Him and feed on His Word, because without Him you can do nothing.

Whatever we did without Him was dead works. That's why Jesus said to the church at Ephesus in the book of Revelation, whatever you did (*dead works*) if you do not repent, I am going to remove your lamp stand, because you forsook your first love.

Let's allow the Holy Spirit to establish these revelations in us. The Lord bless you.

*March 14th, Session II*

## **PRAYER OF REPENTANCE.**

We have this foundation established in us: Jesus does not want performance and dead works, He wants us to repent and come back to the first love. This first love, in which we are in a very intimate communion with Him, in love with Him, we spend time with Him; praise Him, worship Him, read the Word and pray.

We understood today one of those main foundations of the doctrines of Christ, is repentance from dead works. And we learned from the book of Hebrews that there is an evil conscience that tries to push us to make works which are called dead works. And we also learned about the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us, the blood of sprinkling of Jesus cleanses us of evil conscience and the blood of Christ cleanses our conscience from dead works.

And lastly we learned that we can get cleansed, washed by the pure water of the Word of God as we abide in Jesus and Jesus in us. He is the vine and we are the branches. That intimate relation with Him allows His life to flow in us and produce His fruits. Don't try to produce fruit. Did you ever see a branch trying to produce fruit? As the branch remains in the tree the life flows through the tree to the branch and naturally leaves come out and fruit comes out. Amen?

Now, if this is established in you, I would like to lead us in a prayer of repentance of dead works. Before doing that I want to share one more Word from the verses we have read in Hebrews chapter 9 verse 14,

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works **to serve the living God?**

It says **to serve the Living God**. Let's look at chapter 12 in Hebrews, verses 28 and 29,

Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, **let us have grace**, whereby we may **serve God acceptably** with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.

I believe that in some versions in the Bible as it is the case in Indonesian, Spanish and Arabic, it says let us have "gratitude" whereby we may serve God. But in English in KJV Bible says let us have "grace". That is what we need: Grace. Let's us **have grace** whereby we may serve God acceptably and with godly fear.

According to Thayer's dictionary of Greek: χάρις, **charis**

**Thayer Definition:**

1) grace

1a) that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech

And this agrees with Philippians 2 verses 12 and 13,

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

**13 For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

How many know that we need the Grace of God to do that? Without His grace, without Him we can do nothing. Amen?

So, let's pray. And do not repeat this prayer just for the sake of repeating, but repeat it because you believe that this expresses what your heart believes. Ok, let's focus on Jesus and pray this prayer:

*Lord Jesus, forgive me for forsaking the first love, for focusing on works, and as you said Lord I agree that those works are dead works. Therefore Father in Jesus' name I repent of the dead works and I ask you for the blood of sprinkling to sprinkle my heart from an evil conscience, I pray for the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse my conscience from dead works to serve the Living God.*

*Father, I ask you for grace now; restore me to the first love in Christ, to be in love with Jesus, to love your son Jesus as you love Him. Let the fire of your love burn in me, keep it ablaze by blowing upon it continuously by the Holy Spirit. I ask for grace Father, in Jesus' name.*

*Teach me to wait on you, to know what you want to be done. And to work out my salvation with fear and trembling and let you work in me both to will and to do of your good pleasure. I present my body as a living sacrifice to you Lord. Baptize me with your Holy Spirit Father, I surrender to you, completely Lord, I put my faith and my trust in you. I make you my trust and my hope, I make you my Love, and I give you the glory and the praise in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Now I pray for you:

*Father God, open your heavens. In Jesus name Father, let your Holy Spirit and your fire fall on us. Have your way with us. May your power, Oh, Lord God Almighty Most High, come upon every one afresh and anew. Anoint every one with a fresh anointing and power. Seal what you have done with the blood of Christ and with your Holy Spirit. Give the increase to your work and bring it to completion as I commit everyone and entrust everyone into your loving hands, under the blood of Christ, under the shadow of your wings. We praise you and thank you and we are grateful for the good work that you started in everyone, you will bring to completion.*

And now, pray this prayer:

*In Jesus' name I leave behind the principles of the doctrines of God and I go forward to perfection. Strong meat belongs to me. By reason of use I have my senses exercised to discern the good and evil, and I thank you Father in Jesus' name. Amen. HalleluYah!*