REKINDLE THE LOVE

It's Time for Church Renewal - Part 7

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**1 Timothy 4:9-10 (NIV)**
This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

**Revelation 2:4-5 (NIV)**
Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which 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.

Spiritual erosion in a church is heart-wrenching, whether in the first century or the twenty-first.

Ephesus was a church founded on solid biblical teaching, but with its growth, it became a body tested in many different ways — leading to wise counsel from a mentor who urged and encouraged a timid colleague. However, over a period of thirty years, erosion crept in.

**FOUR TRUTHS TO REMEMBER**

1. **Erosion Is Happening In Many Once-Strong Churches**

2. **Erosion Can Happen Without A Church Realizing It**

3. **Erosion Will Happen In Churches That Fail To Heed Warnings**

4. **Erosion Can Happen In Our Church**

**TWO QUESTIONS ARISE FROM THESE FOUR TRUTHS**

1. **How Can We Keep From Drifting Away From A**
2. **Passionate Devotion To Christ**
3. **How Can We Keep From Drifting Away From Cooling In Our Commitment To Christ**

REKINDLING THE LOVE

**Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)**
For this reason, ever since I heard about **your faith in the Lord Jesus** and **your love for all the saints,** I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so **that you may know him better**. I pray also that the eyes of **your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you**, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

**Additional Notes:**

* Move from I am to I will
* I will worship with others
* I will grow together with others
* I will give generously
* I will not be a church dropout
* I will avoid the traps of busyness
* I will go and share
* Remember your love affair with Jesus
* I will make a difference