

Main Bible Verse:

(Revelation 2:4-5) Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 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.

Summary:

Rebuke is not judgement. Rebuke is God's love guide us back to Him. Rebuke is to help us to bear wonderful fruits. How would someone forsake the first love? How important does God see the first love? All our blessings are from the first love that God has given us.

1. What is the first love? (Matthew 24:12-13) How would we forsake it?
 - a. We do not forsake the first love abruptly, but gradually. Gradually our bible reading time is reduced; gradually we spend less and less time lift up our hands and worship; gradually we lost the eagerness to go to church; gradually we don't feel touched when we come to church anymore; and gradually the wholehearted willingness to receive the anointing and to being set free by the Holy Spirit is no longer there.
 - b. God wants to bless us with His healing, calling, setting us free, and every good and perfect gift through the first love. Therefore, God wants us to repent, or our lampstand would be removed.
 - c. Lampstand: God's word. To enlighten us with God's wisdom and direction. The foundation of the light of our live. (John 1:3-4)
 - d. Church is the place of God's peace and blessings. Church is the place full of anointing and the power to set us free. We must willingly return before God to His sanctuary knowing that God is going to heal us at the church that He appointed to us.
 - e. Do not give up our relationship with God when we encounter hardships. For no one and nothing could separate us from God's love except for ourselves.
2. When spouses do not forsake the first love, prayers will not be hindered. (Jeremiah 2:2)
 - a. The first love of a marriage is their covenant before God. It begins your dream and family in unity. God remembers such devotion.
 - b. The wife must respect her husband and the husband must love his wife as he loves the church and himself. (Ephesians 5:33/Proverbs 5:18/1 Peter 3:4-7)
 - c. How could some spouse find no content in each other? It is not the fault of the husband nor the wife. But the need of the living water from God through worship and praise. When we worship in spirit and in truth, when we again receive the first love from God, when we come before God to receive His mysteries, instructions, and revelations, we will understand how to love and help our spouse. Never treat your spouse lightly, but in humility consider others better than ourselves.
3. The reason of Adam's fall was because he forsake the first love. (Genesis 2:15-17)
 - a. If Adam kept on trusting in God's word, obeying God's word, and listening to God's word, he wouldn't end up forsaking the first love, hence lost the wonderful Garden of Eden God had prepared for him. Therefore, it is extremely important not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Do not respond when people bring gossips to you, but to lift up your hand and pray. Do not let words of slandering and judgement escape your lips but continue to pray and to bless. Then you will be eating from the tree of life, and of course you will have perfect health.

- b. The fruit of the knowledge of good and evil let Adam lost the glory and anointing of God. God gave him chance to repent, however, Adam failed to repent and return to the first love, hence his lampstand was removed, the anointing and authority God gave him was lost. (Genesis 3:9)
- 4. When Abraham restored the forsaken love, the blessings were bestowed upon him. (Genesis 12, 13)
 - a. (Genesis 12:1-2) God first blessed him, promised him, and told him about his blessings. (Genesis 12:6-7) This is the first love of Abraham.
 - b. Abraham built alters and he worshiped. However, he gradually departed from the place God had sent him, hence forsaken the first love. (Genesis 12:8-10) Once he departed from the place where God is going to bless him, he began to let his own thoughts trouble him and almost lost his wife. (Genesis 12:11) But he mercy and love of God saved his marriage. (Genesis 12:17-18)
 - c. When he realized that it is a sin to depart from the place God had sent him, he repented and returned and call out to God. (Genesis 13:3-4)
- 5. The first love is the work of the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1-2)
 - a. The place God had sent us, is the church where God has filled us with His Spirit and set us free. (Acts 1:4-5/Acts 2:1-4)
 - b. Tongue of fire is God cleansing our impurities and unholiness. God will then fill us with the Holy Spirit, and we will be able to declare the wonders of God. The church of Ephesus was established when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 19:1-6)
 - c. Paul knew the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit for he had been struck by the light of God and had his life transformed entirely. From a man who persecuted Christians, to an apostle who shared the gospel to the gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel, and glorified God's name. (Acts 9:15)
 - d. We must live a life that gives praise and glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:3-9)

Conclusion:

(Ephesians 1:13-14) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

- The key to not let the thief to come to steal and kill and destroy is to let the Holy Spirit mark us with a seal. Do not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Begin from attending church meetings and learn to eat from the tree of life, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, then our lampstand will not be removed, and we will be able to receive the abundant blessings that God had prepared for us.