



# NEW HEARTBEAT DEVOTIONS

*“A sign that you lost your passion for your first love is that you are too busy to spend quality individual time with them.”*

## Left Our First Love

*One Sunday evening, I visited a church. My granddaughter was a dancer for their St Patricia Day event. It was their first social event inside their brand-new multipurpose room. The stage had the latest lighting, sound and projection equipment. The design of the room and lighting made it look very elegant. For this event, they had an Irish band and Irish dancers. Of course, there was a large spread of free Irish food and drink. Yes, they were also giving out Irish beer. It seemed like a social club event.*

*Since it was a church function, I thought the Pastor would have given some type of prayer. I thought there would have been some type of explanation of who St Patricia was and why we celebrate his day. I thought there would have been at least some mention about God or the church from the stage. But there was nothing. At our table, some of the members were telling us about this new room and new direction. To our surprise, they even said that many of the people no longer want to hear scripture in the sermons.*

*This church, like so many other organizations, does stand up against evil towards mankind and nature, does teach compassion, love and peace and does participate in many local and global good works. But they lost what made them different from other civil organizations. They lost their reason for existence. They lost their founding Father and forgot His Words. They have left their First Love.*

*“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.” Rev 2:2-4*

*It is interesting that God uses the term “First Love”. I remember when I first fell in love with my wife, Susan. I remember the feeling of excitement when I first held her hand. I remember our first kiss. I remember the many love notes we sent each other. I just could not keep away from her. She was my energy and my reason for the future. I still have dreams about our passion. But unfortunately, like all marriages, the busyness of life and the cares of the world soon dampen that passion and we begin to just go through the motions of being together. Without repeatedly returning to that first love feeling our relationship at times, turned cold, and there were times we had to keep from being drawn to another.*

*There is a tv show called “Married at First Sight”. It is where two people, who never meet, are joined together in a ceremony. The cameras go through watching them live together as a couple. At the end of two months, they are given a choice to get out of the relationship with a divorce. Even though a paper and the world stated that they were married, they were only going through the motions.*

*“Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matt 7:22-23*

*If you left your first love, repent and return. God wants a relationship not a religion of works.*



*Charles L Stambaugh*

*Mt Wolf, PA*

*“Stop being busy doing good things and start doing the right things with Me.”*

*God*



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