

Losing Your Grip
Revelation 2:1-7

Sometimes marriage partners come to believe that they no longer love each other. Such a marriage may survive, but it falls far short of being the _____ and usually leaves one or both partners _____. Apparently, this type of relationship has its _____ in the spiritual realm. Rev. 2:1-7 describes this problem.

The vision of the golden lampstands and stars communicates the extreme _____ in God's eyes of churches that hold up the light of Christ in a dark world. Churches are filled with imperfect people who make mistakes in word and deed. Yet they are all "_____" to God. _____ is walking among all of them.

Jesus commends the church for thriving and remaining _____ in a place that _____ everything God opposes. The church didn't waver in theology and behavior. But orthodoxy and orthopraxy alone did not leave Jesus fully _____. They had _____ their _____ on their love for Him.

A new believer _____ with Jesus and wants to know, follow, and love Him. Forsaking your first love happens when we get _____ with all the duties and details of the institution of the church but our _____ with the risen person of Christ is no longer vital.

Jesus warned us to repent, or "He will _____ our lampstand!" He'll remove the ability of the church to fulfill its _____, reaching people for Christ. The _____.

Jesus doesn't mainly want _____ for a cause. He wants _____ in relationship with Him. There are too many churches and Christians whose relationship with the risen person of Jesus could be described by the famous song, "Ships," by Ian Hunter:

We're two ships that _____ in the night. We both smile and we say it's alright. We're still here. It's just that we're _____
Like those ships that pass in the night.

_____. _____ to Him and your _____ in Christ will return to you.