



reignite
YOUR LOVE FOR GOD

The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes
of his message preached September 17th, 2017

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- ✦ I got this Tim Hortons coffee before the service, it was about 70° to 80° Celsius. How many know that unless I reheated it since, it probably is getting a little cold?
- ✦ **The First law of Thermodynamics** states that energy can't be created or destroyed, but it can be changed. This Tim Hortons coffee did not get to that temperature on its own. Something else, a stove, a microwave, turned electricity into heat and heated up the coffee in the cup bringing it to that temperature of 70° to 80° Celsius.
- ✦ But it's not that temperature now! Why? Because of what is known as **the Second law of Thermodynamics** which introduces this concept called "**entropy**". Left to itself, the temperature of the coffee in this cup will decline to match the lower temperature in this room until they both arrive to a state of uniformity.

ENTROPY means that EVERYTHING left to itself will deteriorate, cool down, lose speed... A house left to itself will eventually fall down, fall apart, decay... unless someone fixes it up; unless someone takes my coffee and heats it up.

Now, when we say "**EVERYTHING**" that means everything including our spiritual energy, passion and love for God! Here is our starting verse for today (Hebrews 10:23...)

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."
Hebrews 10:23–25 (ESV)

"Let's consider how to stir up one another to love and good works".

Paul reminds Timothy...

"I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you." 2 Timothy 1:6a (NIV)

Illustration: Fire pit going out... blow into flame!

You see, a fire left to itself without proper oxygen and fuel will eventually go out. That's that **second law of thermodynamics** doing it's "entropy" thing:

EVERYTHING left to itself will deteriorate, cool down, lose heat... unless someone takes initiative and stirs it up! The surrounding temperature will work towards cooling it down

Jesus tells this story about a farmer scattering seed in a field.

You will find the story in Matthew 13:3-9; Mark 4:3-8; Luke 8:5-8

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

Jesus later explains this illustrated story. He says,

"Some people are like the seed along the path, their spiritual senses are calloused and they do not hear or sense God." **WHY? Their heart is hard!**

What causes a hard, calloused heart? The loss of your spiritual senses... several things can do that but here are some suggestions I will give you:

- **Bitterness or resentments.** Somebody did you wrong, you got stepped on (*like the ground in the parable*)...
 - You became hard!
 - You become spiritually cold! You lose that passion for God!
- **Unforgiveness!** Unforgiveness will harden you heart!
Too often we cuddle our hurts, we pamper our pain, we justify our anger, we refuse to let go of the past (she did – he did) and as a result... we GET HARD AND CALLOUSED AND WE STOP FEELING GOD'S PRESENCE; HIS LOVE!

What we have to do with hard ground is to break it open... Turn the soil (plow the ground) and let the air / rain get in! Then life starts to happen! The Bible calls that **REPENTANCE!** = turn, change your mind. The word "repentance" is often viewed as a NEGATIVE word. IT IS NOT!
It's a very powerful word. Repentance opens up the flood gates of heaven, grace, mercy, the goodness of God... **LIFE!** JOY! Love!

Illustration:

- Three years ago I suffered from terrible arthritis in my hip.
- I used to love to take walks but walking was a very painful experience!
- Then I got an operation and, through medical science, I was able to get a new hip. After recovery I was pain free!
- I can still remember my first walk. Oh I was so happy. It felt so good to walk again pain free! Even the sky seemed bluer. The fresh air just made me feel so free and alive!

That is what REPENTANCE does to your soul! You feel alive again!

Every-so-often in my life I have to repent... forgive... let a hurt go!

Then LIFE returns to my heart! JOY! I start to sense His Love!

Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root or moisture.

No depth. A shallow faith that does not really impact your life in any profound way! Many have this nominal shallow faith!

✚ This summer we have mentioned several times the word **SECULAR**

There are different ways that we can use this word:

- A secular SOCIETY** This is when there is separation of religion and the state. (The government and the Church do not mix)
- A secular PERSON** A secular person is one who doesn't know or really care if there's a God or anything supernatural. The natural world is all that's real and everything has a scientific explanation.
- A secular MINDSET** A "secular mindset" is when the main emphasis is on the here-and-now, without any major thought on anything eternal. The main focus of life is about the present, what is material, prosperity, enjoyment, comfort and personal fulfillment.

This often influences the Church creating what I call...

d) **A secular CHRISTIANITY**

These are people who profess to be Christians, to have a religious faith (Baptist, Catholics, Pentecostals). Yet, at the practical level, the existence of God, their faith in Jesus, the Bible has little or no noticeable impact on their daily life decisions and conduct. This is because their faith in Jesus is very shallow and weak and the secular age, with its secular mindset has affected them causing the faith to be dry and lifeless.

They “believe” in Jesus but their love and passion for Him is non-existent. In fact, they rarely think about him in a day! **Their focus is on the material, money, the here-and-now!**

+ Fredericton is full of “secular Christians”...

- They once had an experience with God but it presently has none or very little effect on their daily lives.
- “I’m Catholic” “I’m Anglican” “I was raised Pentecostal” but they barely know where their Bible is and Jesus is barely on their daily thoughts (never mind prayer).

The fire of their love for God has long ago gone out!

The parable goes on as Jesus talks about the Thorny Ground...

Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. (A blended version based on Matthew 13:3-9; Mark 4:3-8; Luke 8:5-8)

Jesus later gets very specific in what this means... He says:

“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear the word; but the worries (cares) of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and pleasures, and the desires for other things, come in and choke (squeeze - press in - slowly) the Word.”

Life gets full. Life gets busy. You have family commitments, vacation, you got on the scales and you’ve gained 5 pounds, the kids have to go back to school. You are back to work. You just opened your mail and discovered how much money you put on your credit cards, the car needs new tires, the kids need new clothes, your daughter comes home crying because she hates her teacher.....

You have no time for God, Jesus will just have to wait!

The love for God, the passion for Him, the fire, gets choked out of your heart! “entropy” has set in

The external has cooled down your fire, your passion for God!

That’s what “entropy” does, it pulls you down... that’s why it takes effort to stay healthy (it’s easier to become unhealthy), it takes effort & intentionality to eat right, effort to keep healthy relationships, it takes intentionality to build a good and lasting marriage and to keep alive your love for one another, even your lawn (left to itself) will get full of weeds, turn brown & look awful!

And so it is with your spiritual life! For your LOVE for God! IT NEEDS TO BE KEPT UP AND REIGNITED!

Paul says...

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:14 (ESV)

Yesterday I did not want to do my treadmill work out... I was battling “entropy” but I had to “press on” “upward”! **Because, all things, left to themselves, deteriorate! Including your love and passion for God!**

✚ In the book of Revelations Jesus rebukes the Ephesian church...

“You have left your first love.” Revelation 2:4 (NKJV)

That first passion, that excitement to be with Him! Other things have distracted you from being with Me!

“God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’” Galatians 4:6 (NKJV)

What does “abba” mean? It’s this primal baby talk word...

- The first words that babies say are very basic: “papa, mama”...
- Then they grow more independent and it’s “Daddy, mommy”...
- Then they really grow independent, “Dad, can I have the car”

Babies just want to feel your love, your hug. They want you to pick them up, hug your neck, touch your eyes (glasses), pull your nose... the wonder of being with you, giggling, content!

Paul is saying that when the Spirit is alive in us, in our hearts, we have an “abba” relationship with the Father (Like Jesus did: “Abba, Father” Mk. 14:36 – “the Spirit of His Son”)

But when we distance ourselves from Him we become religious and formal (Dad). “*Our heavenly Father, we praise Thee...*”

- **We become stoic, awkward, formal, distant!**
- **We pray to get things from Him but not to be with Him!**
- **But the Spirit in us wants a relationship... “daddy”**
It’s hard for us to say, “*Heavenly daddy, I love you!*”
“*I want your neck!*” “*Your love*” “*To feel you close to me*”

Close:

- Question: Has your love for Him gone a bit cool?
Have you become secular?
Has the business of life caused a distance?
Has unforgiveness/resentment made your heart cold?
- **Circle group** or a friend: How are you doing spiritually?

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:23–25 (ESV)