

## Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5 (NLT)

- 7) The text says, *“In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army...”* but he stayed behind. What is the significance of David being out of position, and how does being out of position open the door for trouble in our own lives?
- 8) David was told that Bathsheba was the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite — a clear stop sign — and he kept moving forward anyway. Where do we typically have our last chance to stop a wrong path, and why do we so often blow past those moments?

## Read Psalms 51:1-17 (NLT)

- 9) David begins his prayer with God’s character — *“Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion...”* He doesn’t open with promises or excuses. Why does grounding our repentance in who God is rather than what we’ll do change everything about how we approach Him?
- 10) David asks God to *“create in me a clean heart”* and *“renew a loyal spirit within me.”* What is the difference between simply asking God to forgive sin and asking Him to change the very nature of our hearts?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

- 1) Ask the Lord this week, “Where am I out of position — places You have called me to be that I have quietly stepped away from?” Listen for one specific answer and write it down.
- 2) Spend ten silent minutes a day this week and end with a single prayer: “Holy Spirit, what are You saying to me right now that I have not been listening to?” Then sit long enough to actually hear an answer.
- 3) Pick one person who has wandered from the Lord and intercede for them daily by name. Don’t try to fix them; just pray, the way David said he would teach rebels to return.

## Revive

First Love

Pastor Craig Sweeney | May 10, 2026

**Thread:** Without love, the relationship is hollow.

*“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand...”*

**Revelation 2:1a NLT**

**The intent of the symbolism of “Angel of the church” and “Stars”**

- **Jesus holds His Churches in His right hand, the strongest hand.**
- **The angelic nature of the Church recognizes the Heavenly calling of each one of us individually and all of us collectively.**

*“...the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands: I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.”* **Revelation 2:1b-5 NLT**

**The lampstands’ flames and light represent the work of the Holy Spirit.**

- **The work of the light is at stake:**

*“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.”*

**John 16:13 NLT**

- **It shines light so I can clearly see the state of my mind and heart.**

*“If you love me, obey my commandments... But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.”*

**John 14:15,26 NLT**

- **Making my path of obedience clear.**

- **Guiding, bringing to application the Word of God hidden in my heart.**

**The Power and the Presence of the Holy Spirit diminishes.**

- **The power to press on, take hold, overcome.**

*“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”*

**Acts 1:8a NLT**

*“I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”*

**Philippians 4:13 NLT**

**The power to stand as witness to the work of Jesus**

*“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.”*

**Acts 1:8a NLT**

**The presence of God’s Spirit that brings PEACE and COMFORT diminishes**

*“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”*

**John 14:27 NLT**

**What are they repenting for?**

**Breaking the commandment**

*“Jesus replied, ‘The most important commandment is this: Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.’”*

**Mark 12:29–31 NLT**

**Challenge:**

- Do you recognize the loss or sense diminishing?
- Is there anything in your life that calls for repentance?
- Do I need to turn back to my first love in relationship with God?

*For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit [Dougbrintonbooks.com/resource](http://Dougbrintonbooks.com/resource).*

## Homework Revive, First love Spring 2026 | Week 6

Message Date 5/10/2026

### MY STORY

- 1) If your morning routine were a military operation, what would the code name be — and what is the mission objective before 9 a.m.?
- 2) What is the most pointless thing you have ever fiercely competed for and absolutely refused to lose?

### QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

### DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

**Read Revelation 2:1–7 (NLT)**

- 4) Jesus says, *“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”* What does it actually look like to “have ears to hear” the Spirit, and why is this kind of listening so often missing in our walk?
- 5) Jesus closes with this promise: *“To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.”* What does it mean that the Christian life is described as something we have to be victorious in — and what does that say about how seriously we should take our faith?
- 6) The Ephesians hated the practices of the Nicolaitans, just as Jesus did. What does this teach us about the role of holy hatred behavior and teachings in a believer’s life?