



Introduction: As we looked at our New Theme Emphasis for this calendar year, we have been looking and praying about the importance of not growing content where we are spiritually and avoiding a Lukewarm spirit. But although there is no doubt that in many areas things only get worse in the end, looking at Revelation; there is always a remnant of God's People that still hold on to Him and desire to experience His Fire! The question is: which camp do you fit in? Those who are asleep spiritually or those who are being awakened to new spiritual growth!? Oh God that we will not tolerate spiritual plateaus but will desperately pursue a Fresh Fire of your Spirit and Power in a dry and weary land! Open our eyes that we may see that it is dry, and our hearts so that we may know they need to be filled!

Text: **2 Timothy 3:1-5** (NKJV)

Outline:

I. Growing From Left to Right!

A. Going back to the First Works: I'm reminded of what Jesus said to us in **Rev. 2:5** – He said: "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works..." Getting back to the basics of tapping into God's presence and power! If there was a time you felt closer to His presence or felt His Spirit in a stronger way. The Lord is saying here that no matter how far away you have fallen from that place, you can get back there and even further!

- **Isaiah 29:13** (NIV) "The Lord says: 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.'"

B. Finding the Stillness – It is undeniable that the hustle and bustle of life can create a blaring noise of distractions that are hard to push past...sometimes impossible. But do not forget the first works!

- Elisha illustrates this during a time that the prophet was having a hard time stepping into God's Spirit: we read in **2 Kings 3:15** (NLT)

"Now bring me someone who can play the harp." While the harp was being played, the power of the Lord came upon Elisha,"

- There are other ways to tap into His Spirit power: vision, Music, nature, and speaking in tongues. One *university study showed that speaking in tongues stimulates right brained activity...(although it is the Left side of

the brain that controls most language functions.)

II. The Senses

A. Growing to numbness? (**Illustration:** have you ever been to Belk or somewhere like that to smell their perfumes or cologne? After about 3 or 4 smell tests, your sense of smell becomes numb and you are not able to distinguish the difference.) (**bottles of perfume** – So they bring out a shaker with **coffee beans** in it to reset your smell.)

Similarly, our spiritual senses can become dull or numb to God's voice, leading, and even longing to spend time with us intimately. We can drift so far from our first works, that actually aided us in our day of revival, that we think we are still doing them, but in reality, we have stopped growing.

- I made a statement last Sunday: "*Church people of this day have not effectively dealt with the forces at work inside of them (repressed hurts, fears, anxieties, generational curses, forces of darkness and demon oppression.)*" The only answer is intimacy with God! The only solution is a renewed desperation for His Power at work in our lives, in our homes and in our Church!

B. The 14 Senses of a Saint! The 5 basic and rational senses of the body are: Sight, Touch, Smell, Taste and Hearing.

- But the **9 Senses** of the Spirit are: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control! Galatians 5:22-23

- The results of our relationship with God, staying tapped into His Spirit and dwelling in His presence often; as well as maintaining a Holy pursuit to continually grow in the Spiritual, is that **WE WILL BEGIN TO SEE GOD'S POWER FLOWING OUT FROM US, TOUCHING HEARTS, RENEWING LIFE AND STRENGTH, AND WORKING MIRACLES. FOR OUT OF RELATIONSHIP COMES FAITH AND OUT OF GROWING FAITH COMES POWER!** There is nothing more satisfying nor able to bring more contentment than knowing that your relationship with the Father is healthy and growing! But the only way we can know exactly what Jesus is thinking and saying is by spending much time with Him—living in His presence every moment of our lives. There are no shortcuts to this! Oh, but the fullness of joy we find in His presence!

Conclusion:

Ephesians 1:17-18 (NLT)

asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom

and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ¹⁸I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

Also see Ephesians 1:17-18 (The Voice)