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## Coming Back to our First Love: Remembering the Joy of our Salvation through Jesus Christ



The Reverend Dr. Jason Richard Curry is Dean of the Fisk Memorial Chapel at Fisk University. He can be reached at [jcurry@fisk.edu](mailto:jcurry@fisk.edu) or [www.fiskmemorialchapel.com](http://www.fiskmemorialchapel.com).

“Restore me to the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me (Psalm 51:12).”

Being a Christian is difficult work, and, over the years, I found that it is not uncommon for people who love the Lord to become a bit “emotionally callous” or “spiritually desensitized” while attempting to complete the work that God has called them to do. I’ve seen good people become callous or distant because people are mean or dismissive towards them, yet they strive to love their enemies (Matthew 5:44) and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute them (Luke 6:28). I’ve seen good people become distant and dismissive because people have abandoned them, yet they still strive to love their neighbors as they love themselves (Mark 12:31). I’ve seen people often mistake their kindness for weak-

ness, yet they continue to “press toward to the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).” Indeed, some who love the Lord become a bit distant, callous or insensitive in their work because they’ve come to the realization that there were only a few of them working in their section of the Lord’s vineyard. Yes, some of them were weaknesses of the famous 80/20 rule; 80% of the results are accomplished by 20% of the people that remained committed to kingdom building for our Lord.

Burnout is real, and I have learned that indifference, callousness and insensitivity toward the work or people of God can only be cured by the refreshing, rejuvenating, energizing and cleansing power of Almighty God in our lives. King David seemed to suffer from a type of callous and indifference while leading, managing or working with God’s people; there-

fore he wrote: “Restore me to the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me (Psalm 51:12).” Our ability to move for callousness to caring, indifference to inspiration and from desensitization to divine destiny can only be found in remembering the joy of our salvation through Jesus Christ. We must remember how we felt when we became a new creature in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). We must remember how we felt when we realized that God was able to look beyond our faults and see about our needs. We must remember how we felt when God found the time to bless us in spite of us. In order to drink from the Living Water named Jesus (John 4:7-14) that the gospel is sure to give, we must come back to our first love (Revelation 2:4); for it is through our love of God that we may be able to be restored to the joy of our salvation which is through Christ Jesus.