

Rising of the Son no 12
Seed for every season pt 11
Attributes of God Seed no 8
October 26, 2016
Brian Kocourek, pastor

Tonight we will look at three more attributes of God Seed.

The Seed of God will Understand the Godhood or nature of God, and the Relationship between the Father and Son and sons.

Our first scripture we will look at tonight is from **Psalms 9:10** where King David said *"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."*

Now, there is more to this than just suggesting that we might have a mental recognition of the name of God. It says they shall know thy name. A name in itself represents certain attributes and characteristics.

From his sermon **Why little Bethlehem 63-1214 P:50** brother Branham taught us that all names have a meaning to that name, and the meaning is a attribute or characteristic of that person or his nature.

*"Now, **Bethlehem**. The word "**B-e-t-h**" means "house." **E-l** means "God," in Hebrew. **E-l-h-e-m** is "Bread." "**Bethlehem**," "the house of God's Bread." That's what the word means. **Words, names, they have meanings**. Many people don't believe that, but that's true. If names don't have some meaning, why did Abram's name have to be changed to Abraham? Why did Sarai have to be changed to Sarah? Why did Saul have to be changed to Paul? Why did Simon have to be changed to Peter? See, all these has meanings; everything has meanings.*

From his sermon, **Seven Compound Names of Jehovah 55-0120 P:18** Brother Branham brings out what the other names mean as well. *"Now, from here we want to make our quotation. And now, I have written out on the envelope here that I carried: "**The Seven Compound Names of Jehovah**." In other words, it was what Jehovah is, is made up in these seven redemptive names of His. Now, God... **His attitude towards the people from Eden, back to Eden is wrapped in these seven redemptive names**. The first one being **Jehovah-jireh**, which means, "**the Lord will provide a sacrifice**." The second one is **Jehovah-rapha**, "**the Lord, the Healer**." **Manasseh**, "**our Banner**." **Shalom**, "**our Peace**." **Rohi**, "**is Shepherd, our righteousness**." And **Sham**, "**the Lord is present**." Now, the Lord **Shammah**, S-h-a-m-m-a-h, Shammah is the one I'm going to speak on from--from **Psalms 64**. And Jehovah-jireh is the first one, and this is the last one. **Jehovah-jireh is "the Lord will provide a sacrifice."** **Jehovah-shammah is "Jehovah is present."** Now, may the Lord add His blessing to these as we speak for just a few moments.*

And from his sermon, **Jehovah Jireh 56-1209E P:15** he said, "*And all those names were completely brought together in one body, **Christ Jesus**. Now, He appears in the Name of Jehovah-jireh, "the Lord will provide Himself a sacrifice." He appears in the Name of Jehovah-rapha, "the Lord that healeth thee of thy diseases," and Jehovah the banner, and Jehovah the shield and so forth. **Whatever He is to His people, He appears in these seven compound redemptive Names.***

So when David said in **Psalms 9:10** "*And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee,*" he knew that those who truly understood the name of God would see in the attributes and characteristics which make up the name, the very nature of God and could not help to have trust in Him and His name.

The Apostle Paul tells us the effect the name of Christ should have upon us.

2 Timothy 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, **Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.***

And the Apostle Paul also tells us in **Philippians 2:9** *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

In speaking of the seven compound names of Jehovah, we know that there is power in the name, and there is healing in the name, there is protection in the name, there is provision in the name, and His presence abides in His name, and we saw where brother Branham said God poured all that were in his seven compound names into one body, and that Body was given one name, Jesus.

And so we see James tell us in **James 5:14** *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:***

And Paul tells us in **Colossians 3:17** *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,** giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

So whether it is healing, or salvation, or even thanksgiving, it should all be done using the name whose attributes suggest that very thing.

Ephesians 5:20 *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

And even our justification comes through that name as we see in **1 Corinthians 6:11** *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are **justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,** and by the Spirit of our God.*

And Paul explains why the name is so important even in baptism. **1 Corinthians 1:13** *Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?*

And Peter tells us that we are to be baptized in that name if we are to receive the nature and life of that name.

Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

And our condemnation or salvation is all dependent whether we receive that name.

John 3:18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

And even God sent every prophet with his name as we see in **Deuteronomy 18:22** *When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

God's chosen place worship 65-0220 P:32 *Now, we say, "The church, the great, mighty church, she did this, and she did that. She's weighed the storms. We've picked up in population; we're great in numbers; we're a mighty church; she's a great thing." But God never said anything about a "she," He said, "Him." "Him" is the meeting place, the Lamb, not the church. It's not her name, but His Name. He didn't put her name anywhere, He put His Name in Him. That's why "all we must do or word or in deed, we must do it all in the Name of Jesus Christ. If we pray, we got to pray in the Name of Jesus. If we ask petition, we've got to ask in Jesus' Name. If we walk, we walk in Jesus' Name. If we talk, we talk in Jesus' Name. If we baptize, we've got to baptize in the Name of Jesus Christ. For all that we do in word or in deed, do it in the Name of Jesus Christ.*

In the book of **Acts 22:14** we read, *"And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see (understand) that Just One, and shouldest hear (perceive) the voice of his mouth.*

And in **Jeremiah 24:7** we read, *"And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.*

And in the Millennium, we won't have to teach the people about Christ and His plan that he has for us, because all that are there have the Holy Ghost and we know that you must have the Holy Ghost in order to understand the things of God.

Jeremiah 31:34 *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

And again we read this in **Hebrews 8:10-11** *10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every*

man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest

Isaiah 54:13 *And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.*

John 6:45 *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

Ephesians 3:14 *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

2 John 1:3 *Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*

The next attribute we will examine tonight concerning the Seed of God will be that they **Will understand the Alpha and Omega., or that the alpha must become Omega, or put another way Alpha must repeat in Omega. Because as He is so are we in this world..**

In fact that is what we hear John tell us in **1 John 4:17** *Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

He said in **Revelations 1:8** *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty*

Masterpiece the 64-0705 P:99 *The first Eve that fell, and was used in the second reformation--second coming, as bringing forth a child, now has become true Bride again, the Seed, right back with the original Word again. The Alpha and Omega is the same. He said, "I am Alpha and Omega." He never say anything in between, "I'm Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last." That's it. The first ministry and the last ministry is the same. The first Message and the last Message is the same thing. " I was in Alpha; I'm in Omega." "There'll be a day that won't be called day nor night, but in the evening time it shall be Light." See? Alpha and Omega; it's become the first and the last. Oh, my, brethren, we could stay hours on that.*

Revelations 1:11 *Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

The Bible Doctrine that deals with the "**Alpha and Omega**" principle is purely the most important revelation we can receive from God. In fact in the following quote we will hear brother Branham make several points which we shall consider.

#1. He says "*It is the Greatest of all revelations*" because it teaches us the Supreme Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#2. He said "*it is the first thing you have to know,*" because it concerns the Supreme Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, "*I'm Alpha and Omega, the first of all*

revelations." You must know Who He is so that you might recognize His voice when you hear it

#3. He said, *"I am the Beginning and the End. I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last."* Therefore, what He did at the first he must do at the last, for He cannot change

Revelations 21:6 *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

Revelations 22:13 *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

Hebrews 12:1-2 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Patmos Vision 69-130 60-1204E 143 076 *"In the Spirit on the Lord's day..." Now, we hear it. Now, what? And what was he done? He was transferred from the isle now, in the Spirit, over into the Lord's day. And as soon as he got over into the Lord's day, he heard a trumpet. What is it? **It's Somebody approaching.** A great One's approaching. **Trumpet sounds, Somebody's coming.** He looked. Hallelujah. ... trumpet, Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:**... (Hm. Not announcement of the second party, or the third party, but the only party. **"I'm both Alpha and Omega; before I show you anything, I want to let you know Who I am."** Amen.) **The greatest of all the revelations is the Deity, the Supreme Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.** You can't get to first base until you believe that, walk out... That's what Peter said, **"Repent, and then see the Deity. Be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and then you're ready to go in the Spirit."** **The first thing you have to know is the Deity of Christ. "I am Alpha and Omega. I'm from A to Z; there's no more but Me. I was at the beginning; I'll be at the end.** I'm He that was, which is, and shall come, the Almighty." Think of it. That's what the trumpet said.*

145 077 *Be careful John. You've entered into the Spirit. Something's going to be revealed to you. What is it? A trumpet sound, **the first thing, "I'm Alpha and Omega." The first of all revelations.** (Oh, sinner, bow, repent now before the time's too late.) **"I'm Alpha and Omega."** That's the first thing that He let him know Who He was. (Who's this approaching? Is this King Jesus? King God? King Holy Ghost?) He said, **"I'm all of It. I'm from A to Z. I'm the Beginning and the Ending.** I'm the immortal, eternal One." Just a little later we watch Him in His sevenfold Personage, watch what He is then. See? **"I am the Beginning and the End. I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. I was before there was a first; and after there's no more last, I'll still be there,"** in other words, **"The First and the Last."** ... and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send... to the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.*

147 078 All right, **the first of all revelations is the Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ.** You must know Who He is when you hear the voice (All right.), the same voice that sounded on Mount Sinai, the same voice that sounded on Mount Transfiguration, the same One, One like the Son of man. Now, watch in this next verse. All right. And I turned... (the 12th chapter now) We're going to leave these churches alone just for a minute, because this whole week coming on these churches. See, so we're just going to pass over that. But He said, "These... I'm going to direct you to send this message that I show you." Who is? **"I'm the First and the Last. I'm the Supreme One.** I'm the Almighty One. And I've come to tell you that I'm giving you a message to seven churches. I want you to write it, get it ready." See? "And the seven churches that are in Asia..." Now, they were churches there then with the nature in them that represented these church ages to come.

In the sermon of brother Branham's that we are studying, **Rising of the Sun 65-0418M 45-3** he said "He is the One Who opened those Seals; He is those Seals. For the whole Word of God is Christ, and Christ is the Seals that was open. **What is the opening of those Seals then? Revealing Christ.** And the very seven Angels which represented the Seven churches was all completed, and we couldn't even see It. They took the picture, not us. And there He is standing there, **Supreme Judge, showing that He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.** What identification. Quickening Power did that to us. **Quickening Power lets us see His coming.**

Now, why would brother Branham tell us that **the Alpha and Omega** principle is the most important principle for us to Know. We have already seen that this principle deals with the very essence of the Lord Jesus Christ and Who He really is. And knowing that "**He is the same yesterday, today and forever**", and as we read in **Malachi 3:6** "**I am the Lord, and I change not.**"

Notice that brother Branham told us, *we won't know what to do with His Voice if we do not recognize who He really is.*

Therefore, #1) in order to understand the day and hour in which we live, and #2) in order to be able to recognize what is being done in the hour which we live, #3) we must know Him. And He described Himself to John on the Isle of Patmos with the words, "**I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.**"

Notice he never said he was the in-between, He said he was the first and the last.

The Masterpiece 64-0705 170 **The Alpha has become Omega. The first become last; and the last is the first.** **The Seed that went in** has come through a process and **become the Seed again.** The seed that fell in the garden of Eden and died there, come back from that imperfect seed that died there, come back to the perfect Seed--the Second Adam. 172 The first Eve that fell, and was used in the second reformation--second coming, as bringing forth a child, now has become true Bride again, the Seed, right back with the original Word again. **The Alpha and Omega is the same. He said, "I am Alpha and Omega. "He never said anything in between, "I'm Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last."** That's it. **The first ministry and the last ministry is the same.** **The first Message and the last Message is the same thing.** "**I was in Alpha;**

I'm in Omega." "There'll be a day that won't be called day nor night, but in the evening time it shall be Light." See? Alpha and Omega; it's become the first and the last. Oh, my, brethren, we could stay a--hours on that.

Again notice how brother Branham points out that He was **the first and the last**, but not the in between. He said, **the Alpha has become Omega**. Then he said **the first Message and the last Message must be the same**. This is because **Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever**. And if the Message is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, then it is the revelation of Who He is, and if He has changed, then the first and last Message would have to be different. Also, this lets us know that since the first and last Message are the same, and that Message was a revealing of Who was in our midst, then we must surely know that the last Message must also be a declaration of the One Who is here. And if He is here, then He must perform the same way and do the same things that He did back there. Again in the next quote we will hear brother Branham reaffirm this same thought that the ministry must repeat in this hour.

Queen of Sheba 61-0119E E-58 *Now, what kind of a light would it give? If that was the first sunlight that shined on the eastern people, which is S-o-n of God, and He did the things He did there on that day on Alpha, He does the same thing at Omega.*

Here, we see brother Branham tell us that what God did in the first age He must repeat in the last. Now, why would God do the same at the first and the last? Because He is the unchanging God. He cannot change. Then, if God cannot change, what He did back then at the first, He must do again at the last. or he would have changed.

From his sermon, **God Who is rich in Mercy 65-0119 29** brother Branham said, *"Now, if many of you like to just mark down Scriptures that a minister reads... And I would like for you to tonight, if you would, to turn to **Ephesians**. And I was speaking last Sunday on the **Ephesians**, how that the **Book of Joshua** was the **Ephesians** of the Old Testament, and how it was a Book of redemption. And redemption has two different parts: "come out of" and "entering into." First, you have to come out. Some people wants to bring the world in with them; but you got to come out of the world to enter into Christ. You have to come out of unbelief to enter into faith. There cannot be one thing in your way. To really have genuine faith, you must absolutely leave everything that's contrary to the Word of God behind to enter into faith, And that was the Book of the **Ephesians** of the Old Testament: **Joshua**. Where, Moses represented the law, could not save no one, but grace could, and here "**Joshua**" is the same word like **Jesus**, "**Jehovah-Saviour**." And now then, we find out that we have come to another **Ephesians**, **another Ephesus now**. Where that in our intellectual denominations and so forth, and all of our educational programs has come to its Jordan, then we must have an **Ephesians** again. We must have an exodus to "come out" and to "go into," for the rapture.*

A Paradox 65-0117 89 *But we're promised, according to **Revelations 10**, and according to **Malachi 4**, and Saint **Luke 22:17**, and so forth, that there is got to come an **Ephesians** to this. There is promised it, friends. There must come an **Ephesians**, that these sevenfold mysteries of the Word of God must be unfolded. And it's in the*

Laodicean age that this takes place. I believe that we're there. I believe we're right in the shadows of the coming of the Son of God. And as Joshua, just before the Ephesians raised up, so did John the Baptist raise up just before the next Ephesians. And we're promised another, another Ephesians. It's predicted here in the Scripture; therefore, I think that we are living in the Ephesians again. Back again to... We are promised that what was left off during those seven ages...

Questions and Answers 64-0823E 1021-119 *And Jesus cannot come until a church, a body of believers and the ministry that He once (were in...?)... will have to be the same as it was then to... And then, that brings... "Them without us is not made perfect," Paul said, Hebrews 11. "Without us they cannot be perfected." They must have this ministry to raise up the Lutheran, Wesley's, and all them down through their ages.*

The importance then, of understanding this Alpha-Omega principle, is that if God performed in a certain way or did a certain thing at the first, then He must repeat that certain way or do that same thing in the last. And this is the key to understanding Brother Branham's ministry and the identification of the pillar of Fire which vindicated that ministry just as He vindicated the Apostle Paul's.

Angel of the Lord 51-0502 E-17 *And we're living in the Laodicean age, the last. And He was standing with His hands out to look upon. And there, one hand like this was Alpha, the other one as Omega. As the lights went out, on up to the dark ages and come down; just as they come in, so will they go out, the same kind of Church, same kind of signs, same kind of people, Alpha and Omega.*

This quote shows the importance of the Omega ministry in this hour. Not only did God come down again as He did at the first, but He again hid Himself in a veil of flesh to minister as He did in the body of His Only Begotten Son. And if Jesus ministry had a certain effect upon the saints in that day, then His presence should once again have the same effect upon the church in this day.

Philadelphian Church age 60-1210 135 *Now, that's what He revealed at the very first church age. Now, watch. As John saw him standing, the seven golden candlesticks, He was standing with His hands out. Here's the first candlestick, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, with His hands out in the form of the cross. He said, "I am Alpha and Omega." In other words, "I'll be supreme in the first; I'll be supreme in the last." The Lights rises in the east and sets in the west. It's been a dismal, dark time, but "It shall be Light in the evening time." The same Gospel power that raised up here on the one hand at the east, has shined over and now in the other hand at the west, "Alpha and Omega, I'm A and I am Z." In His hand... You get it?*

Therefore we can see the significance of the Omega ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ to this last church age. He said the ministry that He once had must repeat again to raise up the dead and perfect the Bride. And remember, brother Branham said the importance of understanding the principle of Alpha and Omega is that we might understand Who He is. And the purpose of that is that we might know His Voice and recognize Him. And how could we recognize Him when he comes if he was a changing God. Therefore, it is the very unchanging nature of God that allows us to

recognize him when he comes. As brother Branham preached, *"God is identified by His Characteristics."*

The Token 64-0208 235 *Just think, the great Holy Spirit coming, identifying Jesus Christ alive after two thousand years. See, **the very nature of Him** doing the same thing as He promised it would be done. That's right.*

And the only ones who can identify with the Alpha in the Omega are those who are spirit of His Spirit, for by one spirit we are all baptized into one body and as he is so are we. For when Christ who is our Life shall appear we shall also appear with him in the same glory, the same opinions and values. .

Great Warrior Joshua 55-0119 E-44. *And He's here tonight, the great supernatural Lord Jesus Christ, the great **I AM, the great Alpha, Omega, the Beginning and the End.** Why? The land belongs to us. "All that comes to me I'll give him Everlasting Life and will raise him up at the last day." Amen. We got the evidence of it here.*

What is the Attraction 65-0725E 142 *And the other day, standing there, turned the picture to the right, and there's Jesus as He was in the Seven church Ages, the white wig on, showing Supreme Deity. **He's Alpha and Omega; He's the First and the Last; He is the Supreme Judge of all eternity, standing there, confirmed the Message of this hour.** And there shall be Light about the evening time! What's it all about? What was it?*

Redemption by Power 54-0329 3 *There was never One like Him on earth, never will be. He was Emmanuel. **He was Alpha, Omega, the Beginning and the End,** He that was, which is, and shall come, the Root and Offspring of David; the Morning Star. In Him dwelt Deity. In Him was God. "God was in His Son, in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself." Jesus said, **"It's not me that doeth the works, but it's My Father that dwelleth in Me. My Father and I are One,"** God made manifest in flesh. What a marvelous revelation of God's love to us, He would unfold Himself and come down and dwell in human flesh in order to take away sin and sickness from the human race and redeem us back to the Father. That's wonderful, isn't it?*

QA Image of the Beast 195-291 *He's Alpha, Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star, Father, Son, Holy Ghost. "In Him dwelled the Fullness of the Godhead bodily," said the Bible. **The Fullness of God was in Him.***

What Hearest Thou Elijah 59-0412E E-81 *How--how many could just almost see the Presence of the Lord Jesus standing there looking over His audience? The great Jehovah God, **the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last, the same yesterday, today, and forever, He's God.***

Greater than Solomon 62-0628 E-35 *The evening lights are shining, and they--this generation is receiving the sign of Jonas, **the Christ that they thought they got rid of.** The church crucified Christ two thousand years ago, and they could not kill Him no more. He said, "I'm alive forevermore." And here He is after two thousand years among His people, showing Himself, with the same things He did back there He's*

doing right here again. Two thousand years has passed. He's alive forevermore, and has the keys of death and hell. Amen.

The warning we receive with this principle is that as the Alpha ministry was to the church, so would Christ repeat that ministry to the Omega or end-time church. However, with that ministry comes also judgment. And as the church began in the Alpha, so she would end up in the Omega.

77-1 Ephesian Church age - CAB CPT 3 *The very name, Ephesus, has a strange compound meaning, "Aimed at", and "Relaxed". The high aspirations of this age that had begun with the fullness of the Spirit, "the depth of God", whereby they were aiming at the high calling of God, began to give way to a less watchful attitude. A less ardent following of Jesus Christ began to manifest itself as an omen that in the future ages the physical vehicle called the church would sink to the awfulness of the "depth of Satan". It had become relaxed and was drifting. Already the age was backsliding. It had left its first love. The tiny seed planted in that Ephesian Age would one day grow in the spirit of error until all foul birds of the air would roost in its branches. So inoffensive to human reasoning would that little plant appear to that New Eve (the New Church) that again she would be deceived by Satan. The Ephesian Age had presented to her the opportunity for God's best, and for awhile she prevailed, and then relaxed, and in that unguarded moment Satan planted the seed of complete ruination.*

8-2 Ephesian Church age - CAB CPT 3 *The fervent desire to please God, the passion to know His Word, the cry for reaching out in the Spirit, all begins to fade and instead of that church being on fire with the fire of God it has cooled off and become a bit formal. That is what was happening back there to the Ephesians. They were getting a bit formal. The abandonment to God was dying out and the people weren't too careful about what God thought of them as they began to be careful about what the world thought of them. That second generation coming on was just like Israel. They demanded a king to be like the other nations. When they did that, they rejected God. But they did it anyway. That is the history of the church. When it thinks more of conforming to the world instead of conforming to God, it isn't long until you see them stop doing things they used to do, and start doing things they wouldn't do initially. They change their manner of dress, their attitudes and their behavior. They get lax. That is what "Ephesus" means: relaxed--drifting.*

Remember, they left their first love. Have You Kept Yours? Is your heart set aflame by God's Word and Presence? Are you ready for the Rapture?