



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 63

Hosea 6:4-6 (ESV)

*What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

The word of God is surely sharper than a two-edged sword with the true intention of purging the sin from the sinner. Now all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God due to the sin nature inherited from Adam. For this reason, we must realize that apart from the life-giving reproof of the word of God and the working from within by the Holy Spirit that we would be like those to whom the prophet Hosea was speaking about. In regards to that, Hosea likens the love the people had for God to that of morning clouds or dew on the ground that when the sun rises begins to vanish. In short, the Lord is saying through His prophet that it was a common situation where His people drifted in their love and obedience to the Lord when things were going well. For this reason, and to get His people back on track warnings were spoken through the prophets in hopes that the people would turn back quickly so that the disaster being warned about would not be needed.

Matthew Henry Commentary, taken from  
<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/mhc/hosea/6.htm>

*Sometimes Israel and Judah seemed disposed to repent under their sufferings, but their goodness vanished like the empty morning cloud, and the early dew, and they were as vile as ever. Therefore the Lord sent awful messages by the prophets. The word of God will be the death either of the sin or of the sinner.*

This Old Testament example has a New Testament counterpart given to the Apostle John in the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is as follows.

Revelation 2:3-5 (ESV)

*I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.*

Revelation 3:15-16 (ESV)

*“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.*

It is really interesting to see the similarities here of love growing cold in both the Old and New Testament. The purpose of this is because as blood-bought believers in Jesus Christ we are not exempt from the tug of our sin nature to pull us away from loving God. In the Old, God spoke a warning through Hosea by which He said that He has slain them by the words of His mouth (Hosea 6:5). This is to say that when His people pulled away He sent judgment in hopes of bringing them back. Notice also the warning given by Jesus Himself for the same condition in Revelation 2:5 & 3:16 that speaks of the lampstand being removed and also that Jesus would spew such a one out of His mouth.

I am reminded of the Christian movie 'War Room,' where the older woman was trying to minister to the younger woman by offering her a cup of coffee. When the older woman served up the cup of coffee she served it lukewarm. Now, we know that no one likes a cup of lukewarm coffee as this woman was trying to illustrate. It is something that someone would rather spew out of their mouth than to drink from it. So the question is, why would Jesus take lukewarm believers? The answer is not meant to condemn but rather to exhort in all love and truth. That is that Jesus Himself requires our love for Him to be hot and on fire.

The truth is we are prone to wax and wane concerning our love for God and because of this we must from time to time, as the Lord sees fit, hear words like this to get our hearts back towards Him and His unfailing love and grace. Now, when we hear such strong words as these, it is not intended to condemn but to elevate one through awareness back to the fullness of the Father's great love. If we find ourselves lacking in spiritual fervor and love for God realize that we all go through this process from time to time as we read about with the various characters in the Bible. However, there is never a reason that we should stay there because the Lord has done a wonderful work for each of us and even given us a helper called the Holy Spirit to empower us and quicken our love and faith. If one heeds the warning signs and realizes that it is because God loves us that He gives us these warnings and adhere quickly to prayer and the work of the Holy

Spirit this too will work together for good.

I would be a liar if I said that I did not personally experience these moments in my life. Honestly, it happens more than I would like to even admit to myself. However, when I feel this type of distance between God and me, I immediately begin to cry out, knowing that I require His strength and power just to be able to love Him correctly. If I were left to myself (and thank the Lord that none of us are), I would be corrupt in every abominable way, but God is rich in mercy and has saved us from dead works to serve Him in the fullness of the Gospel. For this, I am glad and rejoice, knowing that Jesus paid it all, and all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, but He washed it white as snow. Hallelujah Jesus! Truly the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom He has given to us (Romans 5:5). Give Him some praise!

May our great and gracious Lord direct your hearts into the patience and love (2 Thessalonians 3:5) of Christ to both prepare your hearts and preserve them for the day He returns.

Lord grant us favor and strength so we can be sure that when You return we do not shrink back from You in shame but have exceedingly great joy in Your Presence. Amen.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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