



Today we begin a brand-new sermon series through the seven letters to the seven churches in Revelation. The book of Revelation was written by the Apostle John while he was on the island of Patmos. Most scholars believe the letter was written around 95–96 AD. It was addressed to real churches in what is now modern-day Turkey. Most people think of Revelation as: beasts, dragons, and the Antichrist. That comes later, but first, Jesus wants to address His church. Each church receives encouragement, a rebuke, and a promise. Study these questions and consider what Jesus said to the church in Ephesus about their spiritual formation.

1. In the beginning of the sermon, Neal talked about being afraid to read the book of Revelation and how it took him years to finally do so. What three words would you use to describe how you feel (or have felt) about the book of Revelation?
2. **Read Revelation 2:1–3.**
We read that Jesus saw the hard work and serving nature of the church. Read Matthew 5:16, Acts 2:42–47, and Galatians 5:13. What do these verses teach us about the heart behind serving others? How can we live this out?
3. The church in Ephesus was encouraged for persevering in their faith. **Read Hebrews 11:36–40.** What does it look like for us, in the church in America, to persevere in our faith this week, this month, and this year?
4. Next, Jesus gives a rebuke to the church. **Read Revelation 2:4.**
What does it mean to lose our love for Christ? How can we recognize that drift early, and what helps us return to the “wild love” of God?
5. **Read Revelation 2:5–6.**
Jesus invites the church to consider how far they have fallen. As a group, come up with a list of five to ten examples of people in the Bible who also fell from their faith. What, if anything, brought about their restoration?
6. The church is instructed to repent and do the things they did at first. Share with your group when you felt like your faith was the strongest and most passionate. What did that time look like, and how can you return to that type of faith?
7. **Read Revelation 2:7.**
The promise for the church in Ephesus is to hear the voice of the Spirit and eat from the tree of life. Read 1 Samuel 3:10, John 10:27, Romans 8:14, and Hebrews 3:7–8. What do these verses teach us about the power of hearing the voice of God in our daily life?
8. Close in prayer, asking God to rekindle your love for Him this week.