

My Fondest Memories

- Feeling the first chill of winter
- Decorating my parents' home
- Driving to see Christmas lights
- Gulping down quarts of Eggnog
- Exchanging presents

HBC Fondest Memories

- Celebrating Jesus' birthday
- Cutting down trees
- Decorating houses
- Eating big dinners
- Exchanging presents
- Hanging with family or friends
- Listening to live Christmas music
- Making Christmas cookies
- Singing Christmas carols
- Sponsoring needy families

Is there
anything missing
from our lists?


New Fond Memory
Refreshing
Your First
Love for God



First Love—Definition

"First"

Greek—*prōtos*

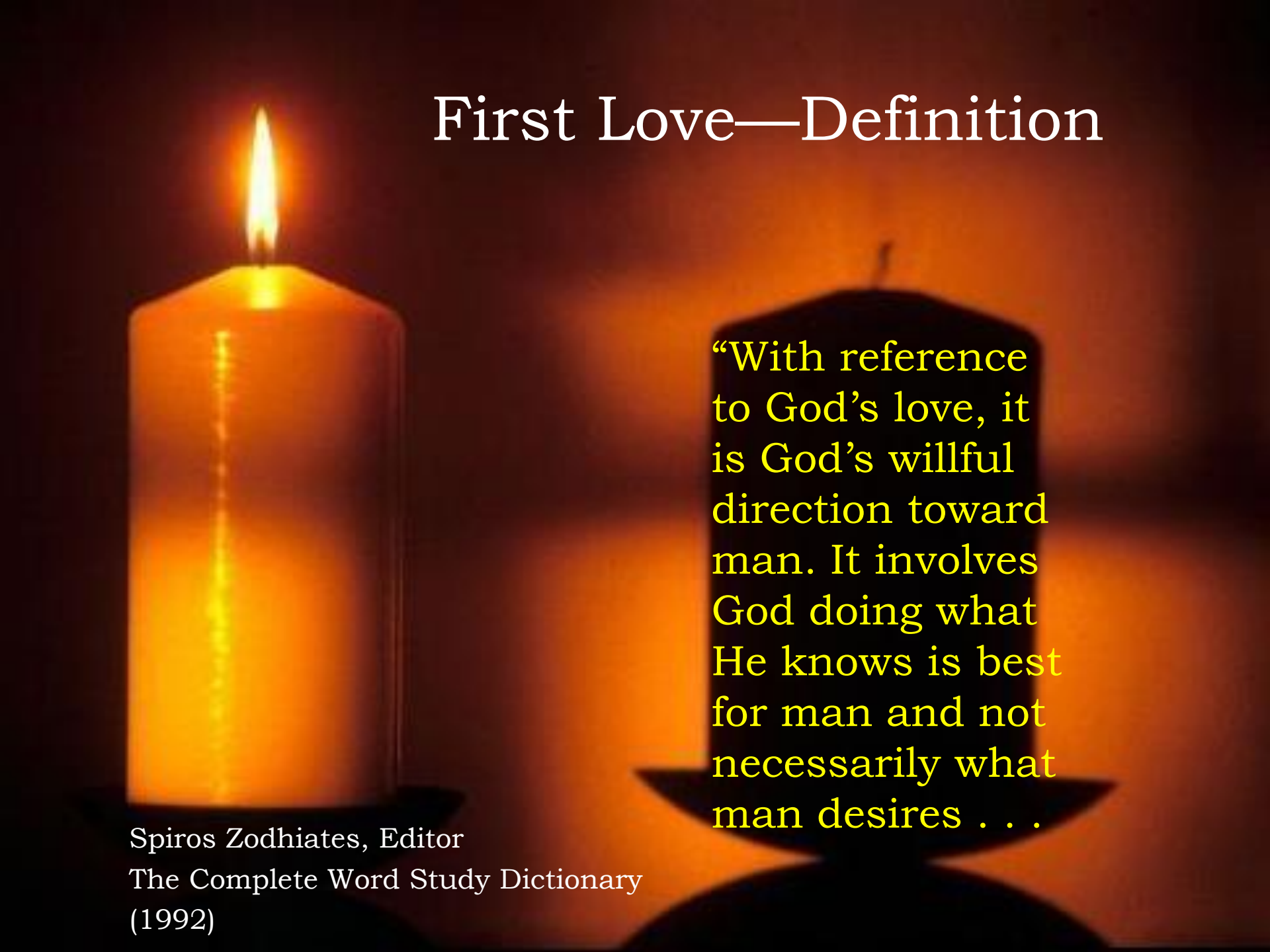
to be foremost

in time, place,

importance


First Love—Definition
"Love"
Greek—*agapē*
kindness,
compassion,
generosity

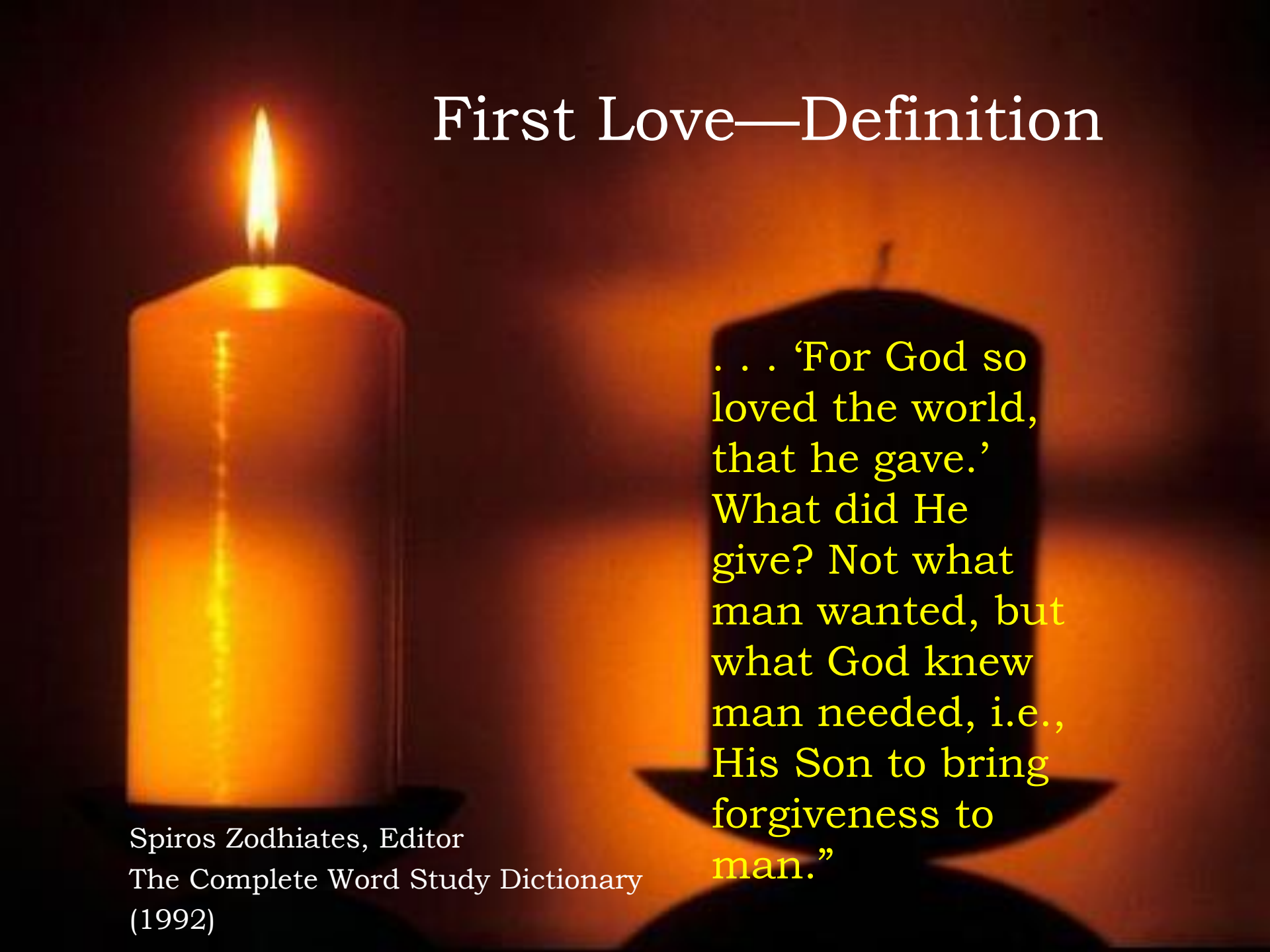
First Love—Definition



"With reference to God's love, it is God's willful direction toward man. It involves God doing what He knows is best for man and not necessarily what man desires . . .

Spiros Zodhiates, Editor
The Complete Word Study Dictionary
(1992)

First Love—Definition



. . . ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave.’ What did He give? Not what man wanted, but what God knew man needed, i.e., His Son to bring forgiveness to man.”

Spiros Zodhiates, Editor
The Complete Word Study Dictionary
(1992)

First Love—Characteristics



Revelation 2:4

First Love—Characteristics



"The fire of its affection had died down. The glowing enthusiasm of its early days had disappeared. The Christians could look back to better days when their bridal love . . .

Bill MacDonald
Believer's Bible Commentary
(1995)

First Love—Characteristics



. . . for Christ flowed warm, full, and free. They were still sound in doctrine and active in service, but the true motive of all worship and service was missing."

Bill MacDonald
Believer's Bible Commentary
(1995)

First Love—Characteristics



"[They had] not left and forsaken the object of it but lost the fervent degree of it that at first appeared."

Matthew Henry
Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible
(n.d.)


First Love—Characteristics
1 Thessalonians 5:19
Do not
quench
the Spirit.
Contrast #1

First Love—Characteristics



Romans 8:9
However, you are
not in the flesh
but in the Spirit,
if indeed the Spirit
of God dwells in
you. But if anyone
does not have the
Spirit of Christ,
he does not belong
to Him.

Contrast #1

First Love—Characteristics



Romans 15:13
Now may the God
of hope fill you
with all joy and
peace in believing,
so that you will
abound in hope
by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Contrast #2

First Love—Characteristics



Ephesians 2:12
Remember that
you were at that
time separate
from Christ,
excluded from the
commonwealth
of Israel, and
strangers to the
covenants of promise,
having no hope
and without God
in the world.

Contrast #2



First Love—Characteristics

2 Timothy 1:7
For God has not
given us a spirit
of timidity, but
of power and love
and discipline.

Contrast #3



First Love—Characteristics

1 John 4:18
There is no fear
in love; but
perfect love casts
out fear, because
fear involves
punishment, and
the one who fears
is not perfected
in love.

Contrast #3

First Love—Characteristics



"Christ is grieved and displeased with his people when he sees them grow remiss and cold towards him, . . .

Matthew Henry
Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible
(n.d.)

First Love—Characteristics



. . . and he will one way or other make them sensible that he does not take it well from them.”

Matthew Henry
Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible
(n.d.)


First Love—Examples
Elizabeth
Luke 1:41-45


First Love—Examples
Mary
Luke 1:46-55


First Love—Examples
Zacharias
Luke 1:67-79


First Love—Examples
Simeon
Luke 2:25-35

First Love—Examples



"I see God's blessings in my life that were there all along, and He fills me with an awesome joy. I see that Jeremiah was right when he said, . . .

Kyle Westwood
Baptism Testimony, Hillview Bible Chapel
(2009)

First Love—Examples



. . . 'The lord's loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning' (Lam. 3:22-23)."

Kyle Westwood
Baptism Testimony, Hillview Bible Chapel (2009)

First Love—Examples



2008-2009

Jessica Abel
Wendy Blanton
Alicia Byrd
Eric Caldwell
Cheryl Kute
Oshagan Merjanian
Graham Paterson
Audra Robinson
John Westwood
. . . and others


First Love—Source
Christ
First, *prōtos*, means to be foremost in whatever.


First Love—Source
Christ
He said, “He is the First.”
(Revelation 1:17)


First Love—Source
Christ
First to come
to us
(Philippians 2:8)


First Love—Source
Christ
First to show us love
(1 John 4:19)


First Love—Source
Christ
First to preach the gospel
(Hebrews 2:3)


First Love—Source
Christ
First to be resurrected
(1 Corinthians 15:20)


First Love—Source
Christ
First in everything
(Colossians 1:18)


Christ
First Love