

# THE FRUIT OF YOUR PURSUIT



## Key Scripture-

Revelation 2.1-5

### Takeaway -

*Not only does God want to be present in our everyday lives, He wants us to encounter His presence.*

## GROW-

Revelation 1

## LIVE-

***To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for My Name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.***

The word for *angel* is the Greek word, *aggelos*, which can mean one who is sent, like a messenger, or someone who brings good news to the people. The message the angel delivers to the church comes under the authority of Jesus, and includes praise for what it has accomplished, but also a warning of what could occur if the church continues down the path she is currently on. The warning should not be interpreted as God's wrath or judgment upon the church at Ephesus, because those fell wholly on Jesus at the Cross. The warning is a description of how our choices and our sin can still have deadly consequences. Like a poisonous snake that has been beheaded, the fangs of the serpent are still spring-loaded with a deadly venom.

## LOVE-

Jesus wants us to know, our future is in His hands. And He does not hold us as one who brings threats, or false hope, or one who stirs up strong emotions in us. His love runs deeper than what we feel, and further than we could run. Our lives are to bring Him glory and fame, and nothing puts His glory on display more than a lost or wandering children returning to the One who loved them first.

## LOOK-

What emotion stirs in you when you hear the word, repent?

Does your sin cause you to grieve? Or are you more concerned you might get caught?

When is the last time you turned back to God and said, I'm sorry for who I am, what I've become, and what I have done?