The Road to Spiritual Recovery
Rev. 2:5

Introduction:
A. Ephesus had become a sick church.
1. Not because of inactivity. ("labor..patience").
2. Not because of softness. ("cannot bear those..."“tested those who say...apostles”)
   -- Has apparently heeded Paul’s warning. (Acts 20:28-31)
3. Not because of weariness. (v. 3)
4. But because of decreasing love. (v. 4).
B. Ephesus given road to spiritual recovery with three milestones.
1. This road must be taken by membership of sick churches.
2. This road must be taken by sick individual Christians.

Discussion:
I. “Remember...”
A. The scriptures that motivated you in the past. (Jude 17; 2 Tim. 3:14,15).
   1. Those that tell of the Savior’s love for you. (Rom. 5:8).
   2. Those that tell of the Savior’s suffering for you.
   3. Those that tell of the Savior’s salvation of you.
   4. Those that tell of the Savior’s expectations of you. (cf. 2 Pet. 1:5-15)
B. The sins from which you were cleansed. (2 Pet. 1:9).
   1. Remember the mud hole from which you were rescued. (2 Pet. 2:22).
   2. Remember the awful sins that were taken away. (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
C. The sacrifices that you made for your faith. (Heb. 10:32-35).
D. The service that you rendered for Christ.
E. The sincerity that you felt and showed in the beginning.
   1. That made salvation, service and sacrifice a joy.
   2. That made love for Christ and brethren easy.

II. “Repent”
A. Repentance is basically a change of mind. (cf. Matt. 21:28,29 KJV).
   1. A change of mind away from sin. (Heb. 6:1; Acts 8:22)
B. Repentance is not what many think it is. (2 Cor. 7:9-10)
   1. It is not sorrow - sorrow precedes it.
   2. It is not reform - reform follows it.
   3. It is change of heart prompted by godly sorrow and produces reform.
C. Repentance is necessary for all sinners.

III. Reform (“do the first works”).
A. One must produce the fruits of repentance. (Matt. 3:8; Acts 26:20).
   1. A reformed attitude - note Prodigal Son’s attitude before and after. (Luke 16:12-21)
   2. A reformed life.
B. One must not insult grace of God by continuing in sin. (Rom. 6:1; Heb. 10:26-29).

Conclusion:
A. If you have become spiritually sick, the road back is simple.
B. Why not begin that road to recovery today.