

A lit candle in a holder, casting a warm glow. The candle is the central focus, with its flame bright and steady. The holder is dark, and the background is a soft, warm orange-brown color, suggesting a cozy indoor setting. The lighting is soft and focused on the candle, creating a sense of warmth and nostalgia.

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?

A photograph of two candles. On the left is a lit candle with a bright flame, casting a warm glow. On the right is an unlit candle, appearing as a dark silhouette. The background is a soft, warm orange glow. The text 'New Fond Memory' is written in white serif font at the top. The text 'Refreshing Your First Love for God' is written in white serif font over the unlit candle.

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”

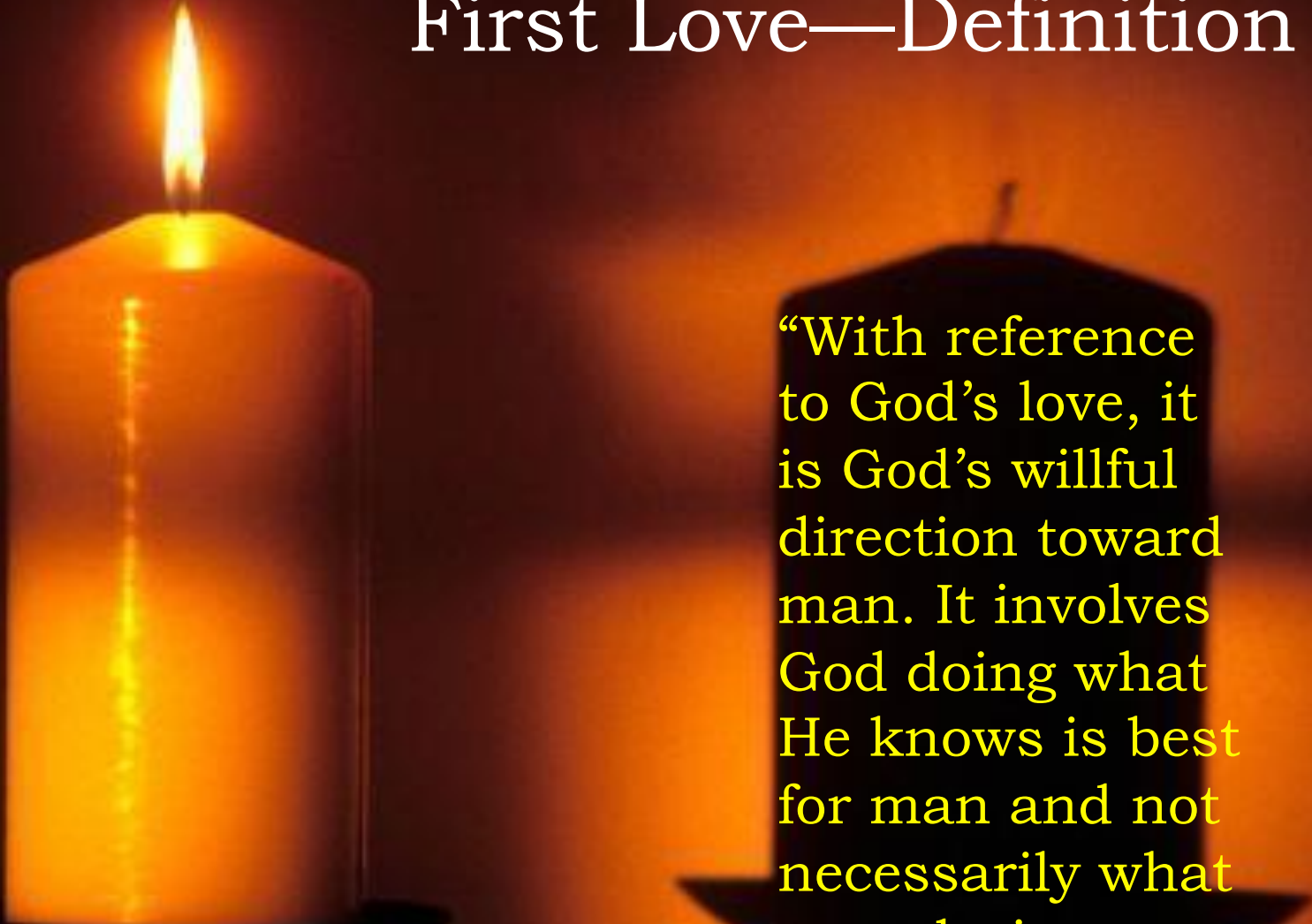
Greek—*agapē*

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)

The image features two candles on a dark surface. The candle on the left is lit, with a bright yellow flame and a warm orange glow emanating from it. The candle on the right is unlit, appearing as a dark silhouette. The background is a gradient of dark brown and black, with the light from the lit candle creating a soft, warm glow around it. The text "First Love—Characteristics" is written in a white, serif font at the top of the image.

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

The image features two lit candles. The candle on the left is in sharp focus, showing its bright flame and the texture of the wax. The candle on the right is out of focus, appearing as a dark silhouette with a soft glow from its flame. The background is a dark, warm-toned gradient, possibly from the light of the candles.

“[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



Contrast #2

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.



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.)

The image features two candles on a dark surface. The candle on the left is lit, with a bright yellow flame and a warm orange glow. The candle on the right is unlit, appearing as a dark silhouette. The background is a soft, out-of-focus orange and yellow light, suggesting a warm, intimate atmosphere.

First Love—Examples

Elizabeth

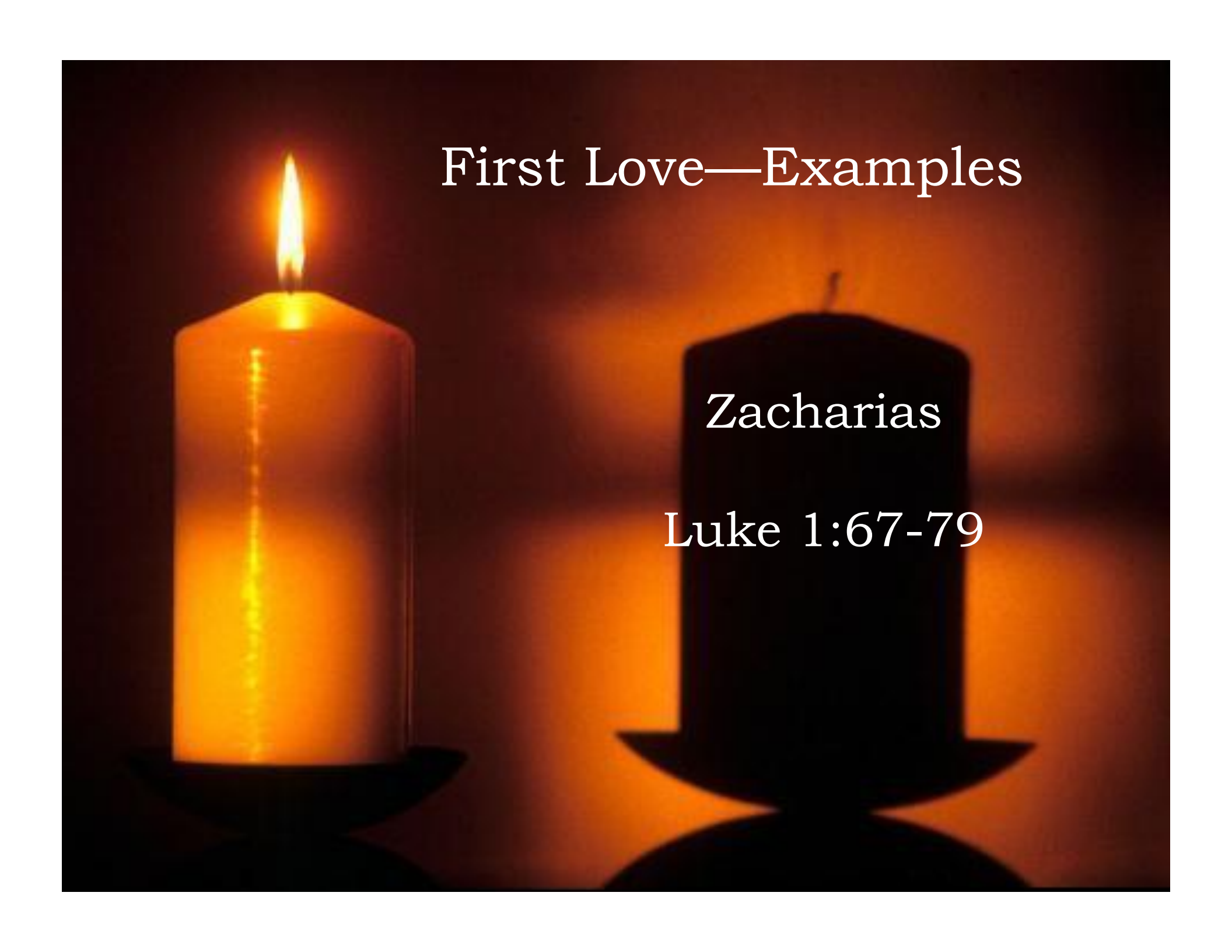
Luke 1:41-45

The image features two candles on a dark surface. The candle on the left is lit, with a bright yellow flame and a warm glow. The candle on the right is unlit and appears as a dark silhouette. The background is a soft, warm orange-brown gradient.

First Love—Examples

Mary

Luke 1:46-55

A photograph of two candles. The candle on the left is lit, with a bright yellow flame and a warm glow. The candle on the right is unlit and appears as a dark silhouette. The background is dark with a soft, warm light emanating from the lit candle.

First Love—Examples

Zacharias

Luke 1:67-79

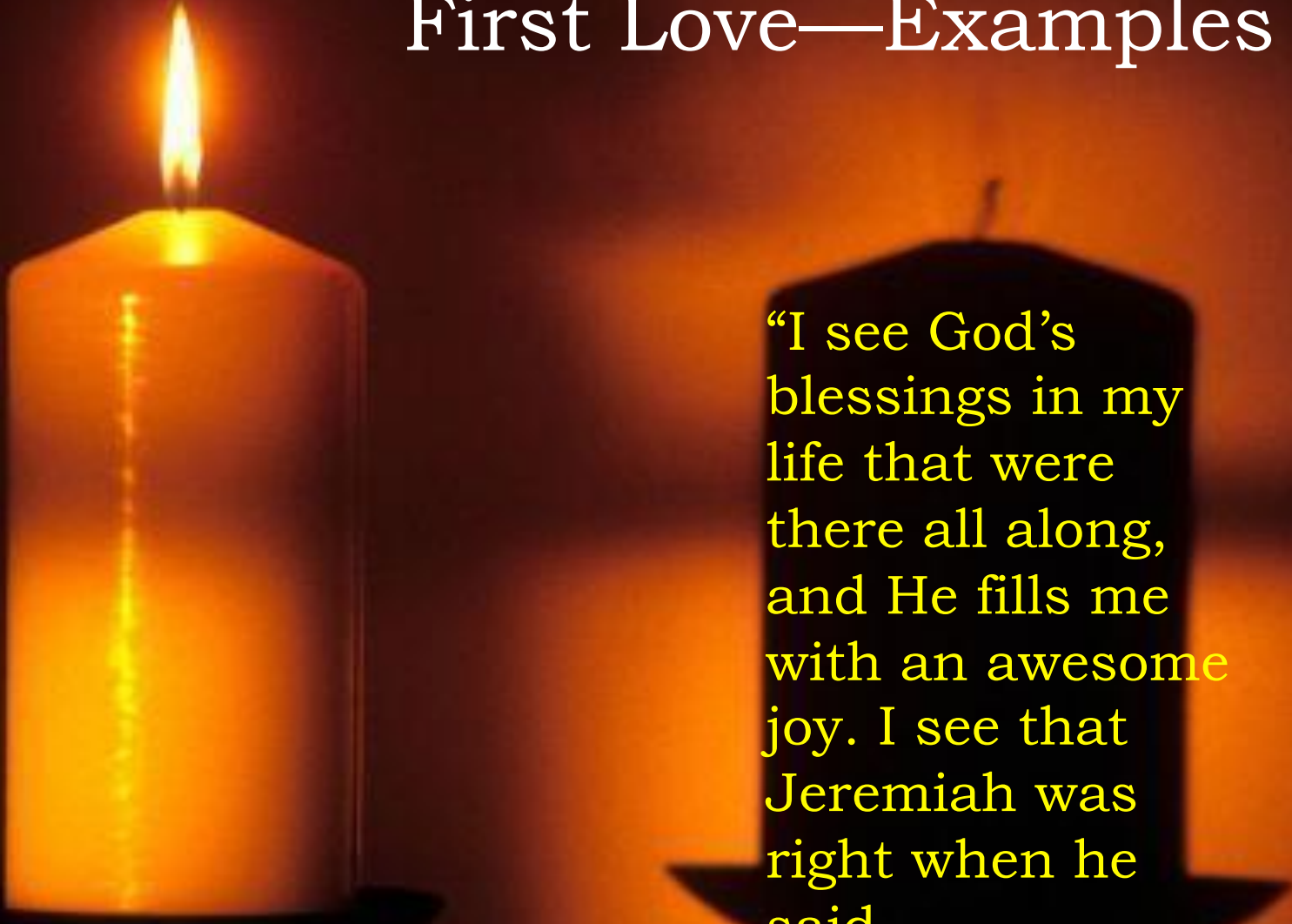
A photograph of two candles. The candle on the left is lit, with a bright yellow flame and a warm orange glow. The candle on the right is unlit and appears as a dark silhouette. The background is dark with a soft, warm light emanating from the lit candle.

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, . . .

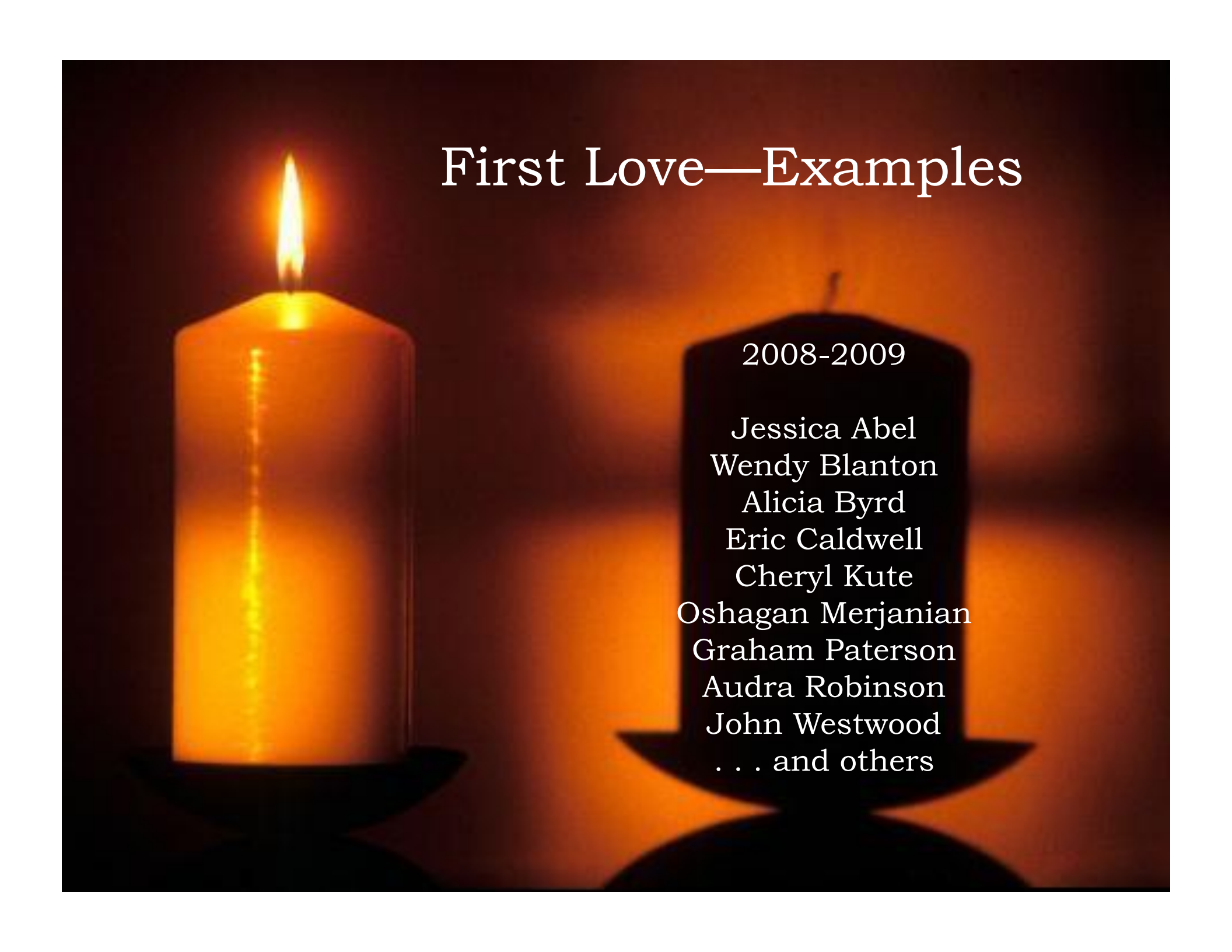
Kyle Westwood
Baptism Testimony, Hillview Bible Chapel
(2009)



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)

The image features two candles against a dark background. On the left, a tall, lit candle with a bright yellow flame sits on a dark, reflective surface. On the right, a shorter, unlit candle sits on a similar dark surface. The background is a soft, warm glow from the lit candle. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

First Love—Source

Christ

First to preach
the gospel

(Hebrews 2:3)



First Love—Source

Christ

First to be
resurrected

(1 Corinthians 15:20)

The image features two candles against a dark, warm-toned background. On the left is a lit candle with a bright flame, casting a warm glow. On the right is a dark, unlit candle with white text overlaid on it. The text is arranged vertically, starting with a title at the top, followed by the name 'Christ', then the phrase 'First in everything', and finally the biblical reference '(Colossians 1:18)' at the bottom.

First Love—Source

Christ

First in
everything

(Colossians 1:18)



Christ
First Love

