

# LOVING GOD

5 WEEK BIBLE STUDY



HOW TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL  
YOUR HEART, SOUL AND MIND

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## **Loving God: 5-Week Bible Study**

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# Loving God

## 5-Week Discipleship Study

*Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. Matthew 22:37-38*

**Week 1- Loving God with all my heart (part 1)**

**Week 2- Loving God with all my heart (part 2)**

**Week 3- Loving God with all my soul (part 1)**

**Week 4- Loving God with all my soul (part 2)**

**Week 5- Loving God with all my mind**

## **How to get the most out of this study:**

### **What you will need:**

Bible

Pen

Highlighter

### **Be Organized**

Choose a time and place that you will do the study. Each lesson should take approximately 1-2 hours of your week (this includes the application section). I suggest dividing the time between 2 or 3 days

### **PRAY**

Always start and end your study in prayer. Ask God to give you a greater understanding of His truth.

### **Application**

At the end of each lesson is an "application" section. This is the most important part of the study. This is where God's word becomes part of your own life! Make sure to commit to doing the "application".

### **Share**

After you complete the entire study, pray about sharing it with someone. Ask God to put someone on your heart to disciple.

### **Leading this study**

If you are leading this study, you can either have the group do the lesson on their own beforehand and then go over highlights when you meet together, or you can do the lesson together and give the "application" section for homework. Either way the "application" sections should be encouraged to do alone in quiet time with the Lord.

**Many blessings to you in your study time with the Lord.**

# Week 1

## Loving God with all my HEART - Part 1

*And this is my prayer:  
that your LOVE may abound more and more,  
with knowledge and depth of insight.  
Philippians 1:9 (NIV)*

**Before you begin this study take time to pray.**

**Pray right now.**

- Ask that the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom and understanding.
- Ask Him to open your heart to receive everything He has for you.
- Ask God to make His word come alive to you in a fresh way and that you would have a greater love for Him than ever before.

### **Welcome**

That you have chosen to do this Bible study is very exciting. The fact that you have this in front of you shows your desire for a deeper and growing love for God. Whether you are someone desiring a new relationship with God, a believer that is new to studying God's word or a mature Christian, you will be blessed through this "foundational" study.

If you are a new believer or new to studying God's word, a solid foundation is very important for you. It is difficult to have a healthy growing walk with God without a strong foundation.

If you are mature in your walk with the Lord, being stronger in the foundational truths of scripture is extremely important for the days we are living in. May God use this study to strengthen your walk with Him and equip you in a greater way to share foundational truth with others. There are so many who are in desperate need of God's wonderful truth.

To begin, start by turning your Bible to Matthew chapter 22 and read verses 36-40. Below, write out verse 37.

All of these areas- our HEART, SOUL and MIND must be important or Jesus wouldn't have been so specific. In this study we will study how to love God in each of these three areas of our life. We will begin with loving God with all our HEART.

### **LOVING GOD WITH ALL MY HEART**

The very 1st key to loving God with all your heart is to **receive His love and care for you.**

**The Bible says we love Him because He first loved us.**

***"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:10***

In order to love Him the way He desires we must first understand His great love for us.

Let's take a look at how much He loves us.

*He loves you personally*

The Bible says...

You are fearfully and wonderfully made.

You are special and valuable to God.

He genuinely cares about you and what happens to you.

**God Your Creator**

**Read Isaiah 43:7**

**Why did God create you?**

**Read psalm 139:13-15**

**How did God create you?**

**Read Psalm 139:1-6**

**List several areas of your life that God knows about:**

**Read Psalm 139:17-18**

**According to these verses, how much does God think about you?**

**Read Psalm 139:16**

**What does it say that God records?**

### **Read Psalm 139:23-24**

**How should you respond as you realize how completely God knows you and loves you?**

As David had a revelation of God's knowledge and love for him, his desire was to let God into the deepest place of his heart. Living a life of love and obedience to God suddenly became top priority. Just like the heart of David, **as we realize how much God knows, loves and cares for us, living a life of love for God and others will become supremely important.**

### **How God's love operates in our lives:**

**Read and write: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

**This passage has a wonderful definition of love.**

This passage gives a detailed description of how God desires love to be operating in our lives.

Understanding the context of this passage is significant. Paul was confronting the Corinthian church about their use of spiritual gifts. Sadly, as they used their gifts, there was a lack of love. This church was missing the motive and goal of spiritual gifts, which is to build up others and bring glory to God. Serving God is meaningless without love.

*Love is the the key to a life that pleases God.*

The word love in this passage is the Greek word **agape**. **Agape** is the only unconditional love there is. It is an unconditional giving of yourself for another without

expecting anything in return. This kind of love is completely different from our natural way of loving, which is always dependent on our circumstances and feelings.

From time to time it is good to examine ourselves to see if this kind of self-sacrificing love is coming from our heart. Take a moment right now to examine your own heart. One way to do this is to insert your name into the passage above where ever you read the word "love".

**Take a moment right now to examine your own heart. Is the type of love mentioned in this passage coming from your heart?**

**Write down any thoughts below.**

**Now insert the name Jesus into the passage wherever you read the word "love".**

**Jesus is the only one who fits this description perfectly.** This kind of love is impossible with man, but not with God. Through the love of Jesus in our hearts, we can love Him and others the way He desires. We will discuss more of how this is possible in next week's lesson and the following weeks.

**End this study in prayer. Stop and pray right now.**

Praise God for being a God of love. Thank Him for loving you personally. Ask Him to reveal His love to you in a greater way. Ask Him to search your heart and reveal anything to you that is not pleasing to Him. Ask Him to forgive you and to lead you in a life that brings praise and honor to Him.

**For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.-**

**Romans 8:38-39**

## Application

**In your own quiet time this week, re-read Psalm 139 and ask God to speak to your heart.** Below, write down the verses that speak to you.

How do you respond to the fact that God created you, loves you, knows you intimately, and that He will never leave you? What is God teaching you?

**Read Psalm 139:23-24.** Take a moment and ask the Lord to reveal areas He desires you to turn from. Is he bringing something to your mind? Ask Him for forgiveness and ask Him to teach you His ways. You can be assured He will lead you in the everlasting way.

**Below, write out your own prayer** thanking God for His love for you and telling Him your desire to love Him more in word and action.

*Come closer to the One who created you and loves you by taking time each day to be alone with Him.*

## **Week 2**

### **Loving God with all my heart- Part 2**

#### **THE HEART**

Some would say a person consists only of a body and a brain, but Scripture tells us that everyone has a HEART, a deep spiritual place within each person. The Bible tells us that our heart "knows", "considers", "speaks", "remembers", "deceives", "meditates", and other functions that many scientists attribute to the brain. The word "heart" is used over and over again throughout God's Word.

**When we look to the Bible,  
a common topic is the "heart of man".**

**Look up the following Scriptures for the heart. Write down (briefly) what each of these Scriptures say about the heart.**

**1 Samuel 16:7**

**Jeremiah 11:20**

**Proverbs 27:19**

**Matthew 15:19**

**Jeremiah 17:9**

**Genesis 6:5**

**Genesis 8:21**

**Proverbs 28:26**

**These are sobering facts about man's heart. It is very important to believe what the scriptures say about our heart and come to an understanding of our desperate need for a Savior.**

Answer the following statement (circle true or false), based on the above scriptures.

**People are born with a good-natured heart. True False**

**How can the idea that we are born "good" people be a hindrance to having a relationship with God?**

In Genesis chapter 3, the Bible goes into great detail about how man's heart became corrupt. **Read Romans 5:12-2.** According to this passage, how did our hearts become corrupt?

**When Adam sinned, we all sinned and inherited a sin nature.**

**Read and write Romans 3:23:**

**Read Isaiah 59:2. According to this verse what is the consequence of sin?**

**Read Ezekiel 18:31. What does this verse say that the Israelites needed to get?**

**According to verses 30-31, why did the Israelites need a new heart?**

**Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. What does God say He is going to give to His people?**

**According to the same passage, what will He take away?**

This is a prophesy of what God would do by sending Jesus to die for the sins of the world. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He made it possible for us to have a relationship with Him, by taking away our sinful heart and giving us a brand new heart.

Our "new heart" is not the old heart simply changed or renewed, but it is a totally new heart. God replaces our old, evil heart of stone with His brand new heart of righteousness. He gives us the heart of Jesus and fills us with His Spirit.

*We are a brand new creation in Christ.*

***Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17***

"The man is not only mended, but he is made new... There is a new creation, which God Himself owns as His workmanship, and which He can look on and pronounce very good."(Clarke)

**Write out Galatians 2:20:**

**So to answer the question of this week's lesson...How do we love God with all our heart?**

***The very first action of love one must have with God is to put your trust in Jesus.***

You must believe the truth of scripture- that you were born with a sinful heart and that Christ died for you. You must ask for forgiveness, and receive the new heart He desires to give you. We know this as being "born again". You are exchanging your sinful, stained heart, for a brand new clean heart. Have you received a new heart? If so, you have taken the most important step to **LOVING GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART.**

**You are declared righteous in God's sight.**

One might still ask why having a new heart is so important? The answer is that the Bible makes it very clear that without having this new heart of righteousness, we can not enter into heaven. Asking Jesus to give you new life in Him is the **most important** decision you will ever make in your life.

Others might also ask why believers are still prone to sin if they have been given a new heart of righteousness. We will study this in next week's lesson.

If you are already a believer, take time to remember and thank Jesus for what He has done for you and ask God to reveal these truths to you in a greater way and give you a greater opportunity and ability to share these truths with others.

If you are not a believer, **as you end this study take time to pray the prayer below:**

Lord, thank you for sending Your Son Jesus to die for my sins. I believe that You died, were buried and rose again, and that I have eternal life with you. Forgive me for all my sins. Take away my sinful heart and give me a brand new heart. Give me a desire to surrender my life to you and follow your plan for my life. Give me a daily desire to read Your word and to grow in You and fellowship with other believers. Thank you for saving me. Use my life for Your glory. I ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

**You are now a child of God- a member of the household of God!**

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17**

# Application

## I am a child of God

**Set aside time this week to spend with the Lord.**

**Read Ephesians chapters 1 and 2** (These chapters are also summarized for you on page 18). These Scriptures have much to say about our new heart in Christ. They are full of promises to those who have become children of God. **After reading, write below a few of the promises from Ephesians 1 and 2 that stand out to you. Also write out why they stand out to you.**

**What is God's Spirit revealing to you about your new heart in Him?**

**Pray Ephesians 1:17-20....That God would give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.....that the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened.....that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints....and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.**

**Also as you end this lesson, take some time to pray and thank God for who you are in Him. Use the space below to write your prayer.**

# My Identity In Christ

Ephesians chapters 1-2

He has blessed me with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

He chose me that I should be holy and without blame before Him

He adopted me as His child

I am accepted in Him

He redeemed me

I am forgiven of my sins

He has made known to me the mystery of His will

In Him I have obtained an inheritance

I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit

I can have the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him

My understanding can be enlightened

I can know the hope of His calling

I have His great power working in me

He fills me

I am alive in Him

He loves me

He saved me by grace and not by my works

He created me for good works that He already prepared for me

I have been brought near to Him by the blood of Christ

He is my peace

I have access by one Spirit to the Father

I am no longer a stranger or foreigner

I am a member of the household of God

I am being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit

## Week 3

### Loving God with all my SOUL

We learned last week that as a Christian you have been given a brand new heart and have been declared righteous in God's sight. God Himself dwells inside of you and gives you power to live for Him. Even though you have been given a new heart of righteousness, this does not mean you will live your life without struggle and sin. The Bible says that because we live in a world tainted with sin, your heart can become heavy, divided, broken, or calloused. From time to time you may need healing and refreshing in your heart. The other reason you struggle is because you have a SOUL.

God gives us a choice of whose life will be lived out in our soul. We can choose to be grounded in Jesus and let His life empower us, or we can choose to live for ourselves and give into the desires of our flesh. The word "soul" has a simple definition. The definition of the word "soul" is LIFE. So when Jesus says to love Him with all our "soul", that means we are to love Him with all of our life.



The book "The Way of Agape" by Chuck and Nancy Missler, gives a great word picture of the difference between our heart and our soul. The difference being, that our hearts are like the roots of the plant...the hidden place of our life. Our soul is like the outer life of the plant...the part of our life that is seen.

The book goes on to say that our soul life will reflect what goes on in our heart. If the roots of our hearts are not rooted and grounded in Jesus, the outward expression of our lives (our soul) will show it.

**Read and write out Colossians 2:6-7 and circle the key words.**

### **Growing in my relationship with Jesus**

The Lord desires for us to be **rooted** and **built up** in Him. Look back at the picture of the flower on the previous page. The roots are a picture of our heart and the flower a picture of our soul. In order for a tree, plant or flower to flourish it needs to be taken care of. Its roots need to be grounded in good soil and it needs water, sunlight and protection. Likewise, in order for us to survive spiritually we have spiritual needs that need to be tended to.

**Read Psalm 42:1-2. How does the author describe his soul?**

As we go through this week's lesson, we will study **3 ways** we can tend to the needs of our "thirsty" **SOUL** so that our lives can flourish spiritually.

In order for healthy spiritual growth, **our souls need nourishment.**

## **#1. Nourishment**

**Our souls need the  
NOURISHMENT OF GOD'S WORD.**

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16**

**From where did the Scriptures come and what are they profitable for?**

**Read John 17:17**

**Why is the Bible more important than other books?**

**Read Psalm 19:7**

**What does the word of God do to our soul?**

**The word "converts" has the meaning of "bringing us back", "refreshing", and "restoring" us.**

Something to think about...Every time you read God's word it has a restoring effect on your soul.

**Read and write Psalm 23:3**

**Read Psalm 1:1-3**

**What will you be like if you spend time in God's word?**

**Do you take time to daily nourish your soul with the word of God?**

**Circle:    yes    or    no**

**Be careful not to neglect nourishing your soul with God's word. Just as your physical body needs nutrition, your spiritual life is in need as well. There are many Bible reading plans online or try reading through the New Testament by reading one chapter a day.**

***“For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.”  
Psalm 107:9***

## **#2. LIGHT**

**Another need for Our souls is light.  
Our souls are not meant to live in darkness.**

**Read Ephesians 5:8-14**

**Answer the following questions according to verse 8.**

**What were you?**

**What are you?**

**How should you walk?**

**According to verse 10, what should you be finding out?**

**Fill in the blanks from verse 11:**

**Have no fellowship with \_\_\_\_\_**

**But rather \_\_\_\_\_ them.**

**Read Ephesians 5:15-21. These verses speak of several ways you can walk in wisdom and be a light. According to these verses, what are some ways you can be a light to those around you?**

**Do a soul check with the above passage of scripture. Are you living out these verses in your life? If so, Jesus shines through you...You are a beautiful light. If not, pray and ask the Lord to show you areas that need change, so that you can shine brightly.**

**"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16**

### **#3. PROTECTION**

**Our souls need protection from the enemy.**

**Read 1 Peter 5:8**

**What is our enemy like?**

**Read Ephesians 6:10-13**

**According to verse 11, what do we need to put on? Why?**

**Read Ephesians 6:14-18. Write the "Armor of God".**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**It is always important to keep in mind that you are in a spiritual battle. Also keep in mind that God has provided a way for you to have VICTORY. When you are clothed with the "armor of God" you cannot be defeated. Thank you Jesus!**

**Here is a quick review of this lesson:**

**Follow these biblical principles  
& watch growth in your Christian walk.**

**Stay-** in God's word- Daily nourish your soul with God's word.

**Obey-** Jesus- Keep yourself walking in the light as He is in the light.

**Pray-** Ask God to protect you with the "armor of God", that you may be able to stand against the enemy.

**PRAYER-** Lord, please help me to nourish my soul by being in your word, help me to follow you by walking in your light and help me daily to put on your armor so I can be protected from the attacks of the enemy. I also ask that you would help me to be a mighty prayer warrior for others. Thank you that you have provided everything my soul needs for Godly living. I love you. Amen.

**The Lord is good to the SOUL that seeks Him. Lamentations 3:25**

# Application

**Ephesians 6:18 Gives a key to winning spiritual battles. PRAYER. Our prayers should be both praising God for who He is and what He has done and also, asking and seeking God for personal needs and praying for other's needs.**

**\*In your prayer times always include:**

- 1. Praising God for who He is.**
- 2. Thanking God for any answered prayer.**
- 3. Praying for your own needs.**
- 4. Praying for the needs of others.**

Take time right now to prayer using the above guide.

Start out by:

-Praising Him for His character.

-Then start thanking Him for answered prayer.

-Now start talking to Him about the needs pressing on your heart and soul. Talk to Him like He is right in the room with you- because He is!

-Also lift up the needs of those around you.

-End your prayer with thanking Him in advance for what He will do.

## Part 2

**Ephesians 6:17 speaks of God's word being a sword.**

**Do you know how to use God's word as a weapon against the enemy? According to Ephesians chapter 6, we are in a spiritual battle with the enemy. One of his common tactics to bring you down is to lie to you. We are not to be unaware of his tactics.**

**Do you use God's word to take down Satan's lies? Below are some common lies and truths to combat the lie. Look up the following verses and write down what God's word says about each lie.**

**Lie: I'm not lovable.**

**Truth: Jeremiah 31:3**

**Lie: I'm alone.**

**Truth: Psalms 139:7-10**

**Lie: No one understands me.**

**Truth: Psalm 139:1-6**

**Lie: I don't have enough strength to face what I'm going through.**

**Truth: Isaiah 41:10**

**Are you believing any of these lies? Take a stand and come against them with God's word. Speak the truth and your enemy will flee.**

**Take time right now to end in prayer.**

**prayer:**

Lord, I ask you to reveal any other lies that I am believing. Please reveal truth to me. Help me to use Your word as a sword to cut down the lies of the enemy. Help me to continuously study and apply the principles of Your word to my life, that I might live a victorious life in you.

In Jesus name, Amen.

## Week 4

### Loving God with all my soul (part 2)

*Living a life of love*

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus commands us to love as He did. In John 13:34, Jesus says "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

The word "love" in this verse is the same kind of love that we learned about in week 1, "**Agape**" love. Remember, this is not love on a human level. It is the very love of God that comes into our hearts the moment we surrender our lives to Him. This unconditional love is God Himself dwelling in us. Wow!

**When we are living a life of loving others, we are loving God with all our soul.**

*God desires us to be clean and open vessels that His love can flow through.*

Read 1 John 4:7-11

Fill in the blank from verse 7,

Everyone who loves (agape) is \_\_\_\_\_ of God and \_\_\_\_\_ God.

In verse 9-10, How was the love of God shown (manifested) to us?

In verse 11, Why should we love others?

Read 1 John 4:20-21

Who are the ones who truly know and love (agape) God?

*Jesus is our example and we are to love others as He loved us*

Something to think about. Where is God's (agape) love among His people today? Why are many of our homes, marriages, relationships, our churches, not reflecting the love of Christ? Why are we seeing more church splits, more divorces, more ruined relationships than ever before?

**Forgiveness is the key  
by which we may become clean vessels  
through whom God's love flows.**

Often times, because we live in a sinful world, our hearts become hurt. When we are hurt by someone, our natural inclination is to allow unforgiveness and bitterness to take root. Instead of embracing forgiveness we allow our pride and our hurt emotions to rule in our hearts and quench the outflow of God's love.

This word **Forgiveness** means: To do a favor, show kindness unconditionally, give freely. The word is from the same Greek word as *charis*, where we derive our English word "grace"

**"Therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." Colossians 3:12-13**

**More of Jesus and less of me**

Another reason that our love does not flow freely is because, often we are consumed with our own thoughts and desires. And we find that we are not putting God first, but rather putting ourselves first.

In these times, we need to humble ourselves and remember what the word of God says.

**"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philipians 2:3-4**

## How to put our Love in action

**As Christians it is very important for us to love in action, not just with our words.**

Read and write 1 John 3:18

Read 1 Timothy 4:12

How are we to be examples to other believers?

The above examples are a natural outflow of God's life within our soul. They are not actions that are contrived, worked at, or planned. They are actions that are a result of loving God, being in fellowship with Him, asking Him to fill you with His Spirit daily, and of being an open vessel.

The Bible is full of practical ways to bless others. The following passage is one of many that speak of loving others. The following passage is God's heart for the church today! We will be greatly blessed if we live out this passage!

Read James 5:13-20

According to verse 13

If someone is suffering, what should we encourage them to do?

If someone is cheerful, what should we encourage them to do?

According to verse 14, if someone is sick, what should we encourage him to do?

What are we told to do in verse 16?

According to verse 19, if someone wanders from the truth what should we do?

**God desires for His body to be a body that:**

**-Is sensitive to the needs of others**

**-Prays for each other**

**-Is real with each other**

**-Helps turn back those who are wandering from the truth**

*Thank you God for your beautiful truth*

#### **PRAYER**

Lord, help us to comfort and encourage the faint hearted. Help us to listen to them, pray with them and share with them what You have done for us. Help us to be genuine and real with each other....to confess our sins one to another that we would be healed. Help us to be sensitive to one another's needs and always be an extension of Your love and grace. Help us to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. Help us be aware of those who are wandering and help them to turn back to the truth. Please help us to freely forgive others as You have forgiven us and let us be a clean vessel that Your love flows through. Amen.

# Application

## Putting your love into action

In your quiet time this week take time to read the book of James, one of the most practical books in the Bible. Try reading one chapter a day and take notes on ways that you can put your love into action.

When you are finished reading, answer the following questions according to **James 5:13-20**:

1. Do you know anyone who is suffering right now? Write down the names of those who are going through a difficult time (health, relationships, sorrow etc...)

Take time right now to lift each person up in prayer. Also take time to lift any personal suffering you are experiencing.

2. Below, write down anything in your life that brings you cheer.

Use the answer to the above question to write your own prayer of thankfulness (psalm) to the Lord.

3. Do you know anyone who is sick? Have you offered to pray for them? Or, have you encouraged them to get prayer from leaders in the church? Write down any names that come to mind, below. Next time you see them, offer to pray for them, send a text or a card in the mail telling them you are praying.

4. We learned from this lesson that forgiveness is the key by which you may become a clean vessel through whom God's love flows. Ask God to search your heart for sin in your heart (unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, pride, selfishness etc...).

Take time right now to pray and ask for forgiveness and cleansing, that you may be a clean vessel that God can use. (There may be times where it is important to share your struggle and pray with another believer. If this is the case, seek out a mature believer to pray with.)

5. Do you know someone who is wandering from the truth?

Take time to pray for them right now. Ask God to allow you to be a vessel of His love and care. Also ask for wisdom in how to help turn this person back to Him.

**The above 5 steps are a great way to put your love for God into action**

**"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."  
1 John 3:18**

## Week 5

### Loving God with all my mind

*Thinking like a Christian*

**"Love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul  
and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37**

Often times when we think of loving God with all our mind, we think of our thought life. As Christians we desire to have pure thoughts. But actually, when we think of the word "mind" in this verse, our "mind" is much deeper than just our thoughts. Our "mind" also involves our everyday choices and actions.

The Greek word for mind in the verse above, is *dianoia*. The definition of *dianoia* is: The mind as a faculty of understanding, feeling, desiring.

**We are to love God with all of our understanding, feelings and with all our desires.**

Let's look at what the Bible has to say about how we can love God with all our minds.

Read **Ephesians 4:17-24**.

According to **verse 17**, how should we no longer walk?

According to **verse 18**, what has been darkened?

According to **verse 18**, why are these people alienated from God?

This verse is speaking of people who have not been given a new heart. They are living in a fallen state and are in need of surrendering their life to Jesus.

From Ephesians 4:19, fill in the blank

Who, being past \_\_\_\_\_

It is very sad that this generation we live in is like this. They are past feeling. They seem to have no remorse for horrible crimes. They seem to do things without using their mind to think about what the future consequences could be for their actions. **Even some Christians are not thinking correctly. God desires for us to use our minds to think before we act.**

What are some of the consequences people face from living in worldly ways instead of following after the ways of God?

**Our world is in desperate need of Jesus.  
He is our Hope.**

I am so thankful that when we recognize our sin, confess and repent that God forgives us and also brings healing to our wounds. Sometimes our consequences will remain but God desires to bring inner healing to our hearts.

**God is in the business of restoring what has been broken.**

**Read and write Psalm 147:3**

**Thank you Jesus!**

**God's word gives us instruction in how to love Him with our minds.**

Turn back to **Ephesians 4**

According to **verse 20**, what do we need to learn?

In **verse 22**, what are we to put off?

In **verse 23**, how are we to be renewed?

In **verse 24**, what are we to put on?

In this same verse, how was the new man created?

## **Whose life will be lived in your soul?**

The choices we make in our minds are very important because they decide whose life will be lived in our souls. Choices made from faith allow God's life to flow from our hearts out into our lives.

Born again Christians are the only ones who have a supernatural ability to go against "self". The reason for this is because we are the only ones who have the Holy Spirit's power within us to go against our selfish desires.

Certainly, non-believers have a choice to decide what they want to do. But they lack power when it comes to going against their personal desires.

### **The Holy Spirit gives us the power to choose what God desires.**

Being willing to set aside your own thoughts and desires and choosing to do what God wants is what loving God with all your mind is about.

**Deuteronomy 30:19 "...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life..."**

### **Read Ephesians 5:15-21**

How are we to walk?

In **verse 17**, what should our minds understand?

In **verse 18**, what should we not do?

What should we do? Make of list of things we are called to do:

**When you make these kind of choices, you are choosing to love God with all your mind. These choices will only be made by continually asking God to fill you with His Spirit daily.**

**Stop and pray:**

Thank you Lord for giving me your Holy Spirit to live in me. Fill me with your Spirit and help me to make right choices. Help me to be sensitive to you and what you are calling me to do in my life. Help me to be wise and understand what your will is. Help me to love you, obey you and cling to you...for you are my LIFE.

**Let's end with this thought...**

**Read 1 Corinthians 2:16, fill in the blanks**

"...But we have the \_\_\_\_\_ ."

**Truth:** If you are in Christ you have His mind! You have the ability to make wise choices and bring glory to His name.

Thank you Jesus!

**Great work! You have completed this study.**

I pray that through this Bible study, God has given you a better understanding of how to love Him with all your HEART, SOUL and MIND.

**I also pray that God would give you the desire  
and opportunity to share this study with others.  
He has equipped you. Now its time to put your love into action.**

## **Endnotes**

Beechick, Ruth, Heart & Mind, Mott Media, 2004.

Missler, Chuck & Nancy, The Way of Agape, Koinonia House, 2001.