



## Is Loving God Enough?

**Deuteronomy 6:5-6: (NASB)** *<sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.*



Love God. It is a simple enough commandment - easy to say, repeat and remember. But, what does it really mean? Are there different ways of expressing love for God and does God look for different results depending on what age of humanity we live in? Most of all, is loving God, no matter when and where we live, enough?

To love God is a staple of human existence throughout all of human history, past, present and future.



**Introduction, A God Spot, [testoffaith.com](http://testoffaith.com)**

- *Over the last decade, brain imaging has recorded specific neural activity in religious believers in prayer, and this has led to a startling new claim. What if spiritual experience has no reality outside our skulls? What if God hasn't made us? What if we made God?*



A lot of people think the brain is wired a certain way, so the possibility is that God does not exist and our brains have fabricated Him. Obviously, we do not see it that way!

### **A very early and veiled past example of loving God:**

**Genesis 4:13-14: (NASB)** *<sup>13</sup>Cain said to the LORD, my punishment is too great to bear! <sup>14</sup>Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.*

Cain was driven from the two things he loved most - tilling the ground and God Himself.

At the very beginning, loving God was the most natural part of life, for man was God's son. The original relationship was lost.

### **Once sin firmly took its place through Adam and Eve and then Cain, loving God became a basis for living a life of physical favor and blessing:**

**Deuteronomy 6:1-9: (NASB)** *<sup>1</sup>Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, <sup>2</sup>so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.*

Moses simply laid out the rules for living in a land that God promised to Abraham. God gave them instruction long before they entered the land so they could learn how to be blessed. God prepared them ahead of time.



*<sup>3</sup>O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.*

### Listen and do - the formula for blessing!

*<sup>4</sup>Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*



Love God wholly - communicate this love constantly! These words should be on our hearts. We should go through life with a very strong focus and desire to worship the Lord. Ancient Israel was given those instructions. How are we doing with this permeating every part of our lives?

*<sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Love God wholly - be a walking signpost and *make your abode a proclamation of your love for him!*



Loving God was a basis for living according to the Jewish Law.

**What was the theme of the blessing for loving God before Christ?  
Is it different now?**

How was "loving God" defined from past ages?

- Keeping His statues, His commands and His judgments.
- Speaking your love for Him to all generations and at all times.
- Displaying your love for Him in what you do (hands), how you think and where you go (forehead), and where you live from the inside (doorposts) out (gates).



And in the past, what did loving God bring those who loved Him?

- Length of days;
- A bountiful life;
- A fruitful family; and
- Prosperous land.

What kind of theme do we have here? It is a very bountiful physical human life. Is that what loving God is all about for Christians?



A caller from the Philippines suggests Mark 12:28-34: (NASB) <sup>28</sup>*One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that he had answered them well, asked him, what commandment is the foremost of all?* <sup>29</sup>*Jesus answered, the foremost is, Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;* <sup>30</sup>*and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.* <sup>31</sup>*The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.* God is love and He is the source of everything. Loving Him means obeying His commandments and treasuring Him in all aspects of our lives.

Hairs of my head numbered, [How to Love God More, youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



- *By the grace of God, all of the hairs on my head He counted, and all my breaths were measured, and all the beats of my heart, He knows, to the very last beat. By the grace of God, my life is in His hands. By His grace, I am His, unto eternity.*



Let's compare loving God in the past Jewish age to the present Christian age - our previous caller already brought up the first of these Scriptures:

Mark 12:28-34: (NASB) <sup>28</sup>*One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that he had answered them well, asked him, what commandment is the foremost of all?* <sup>29</sup>*Jesus answered, the foremost is, Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;* <sup>30</sup>*and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.* <sup>31</sup>*The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.* <sup>32</sup>*The scribe said to him, Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that He is One, and there is no one else besides Him;* <sup>33</sup>*and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.*

The Pharisee agrees with Jesus! This shows how BASIC love for God should be!

<sup>34</sup>*When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, he said to him, you are not far from the kingdom of God. After that, no one would venture to ask him any more questions.*

Jesus' response: *You are not far from the kingdom of God.* Does this show a difference between what the Old Testament said and what Jesus is now introducing? Previous result of loving God was present blessing, prolonged life and a homeland flowing with milk and honey. At Jesus' time *they were*



*already living in the Promised Land, yet he speaks of the kingdom as something greater and still a bit out of reach.*

 **Is it God or the brain, A God Spot, [testoffaith.com](http://testoffaith.com)**

- *(Interviewer) Doctor Alistair Coles is a neurologist at Adam Brooks Hospital in Cambridge. He has researched the links between brain activity and religious belief.*
- *(Dr. Alistair Coles) Humans have had this spiritual experience for centuries, and there have been various different interpretations of them over that time. Clearly people of faith believe that they are truly encountering God, or the Divine. On the other end of the spectrum are people who say that these experiences are nothing but the epiphenomenon, the side effects of a working brain getting on with its daily life; and they amount to nothing, they speak of nothing outside of the brain.*

**What Jesus added is a clear indication that while loving God is a firm and necessary foundation, there is more - much more - required:**

Mark 12:31: (NASB) *The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.*

Of course, Jesus wasn't asked what the second greatest commandment was! He takes both commands and makes them one. If God loved humankind, He wants you to love your fellow man, too.

Does the adding of this second commandment also follow the Old Testament pattern?

(Source: Biblical commentator C.T. Russell) *And the second: He divided the Law into two parts, as on the two tables of stone; the one part relating to God and man's obligations to his Creator; and the second part relating to man's responsibilities toward his fellow man.*

The first half of the 10 Commandments were focused on God. But the second half were all about how you treat your neighbor. One tablet focuses "up" and the other focuses all around us. There is more to our Christian walk than loving God. Loving God is a foundation. What do we do with that love? How do we express that love?

**Is loving your neighbor the same as loving God?**

**The context of *love your neighbor as yourself* is built on loving God:**

Leviticus 19:9-16: (NASB) *<sup>9</sup>Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup>Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.*

There was a direct command from God to share of your bounty with those who are needy - that was how to love your neighbor.

*I am the Lord your God*: In other words, make no mistake, this came from God through Moses. This was not subject to interpretation and not to do only if you felt like it. This was how to truly, deeply love your neighbor.





*<sup>11</sup>You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. <sup>12</sup>You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning. <sup>14</sup>You shall not curse a deaf man, nor place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.*

Deal fairly with all - be honest, give respect, pay on time, do not abuse and more.

*<sup>15</sup>You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.*

Act in a just manner, speak only truthfully and without malice.

The Old Testament version of loving God and loving your neighbor was very much centered on physical life and experiences. Does that change in the New Testament?



A caller from Connecticut suggests to love God is to avoid and detest idolatry. God gives us 168 hours a week. Couldn't we devote a couple of hours to Him on a Sunday morning? To forget God is to become idolatrous, as we are worshipping other things instead of Him. Our love has to be proactive. James 1:27: (ASV) Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

John 15:12-17: (NASB) *<sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

This was a new, higher and more costly way - the Old Testament said "give of your abundance," but Jesus said "give your life!"

*<sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in my name He may give to you. <sup>17</sup>This I command you, that you love one another.*

This is a new and more intimate relationship. Our love for God is expressed through our sacrificing our lives for one another.

*But I chose you:* There would be a calling to individuals. We are now a part of the family of God - not just chosen people.

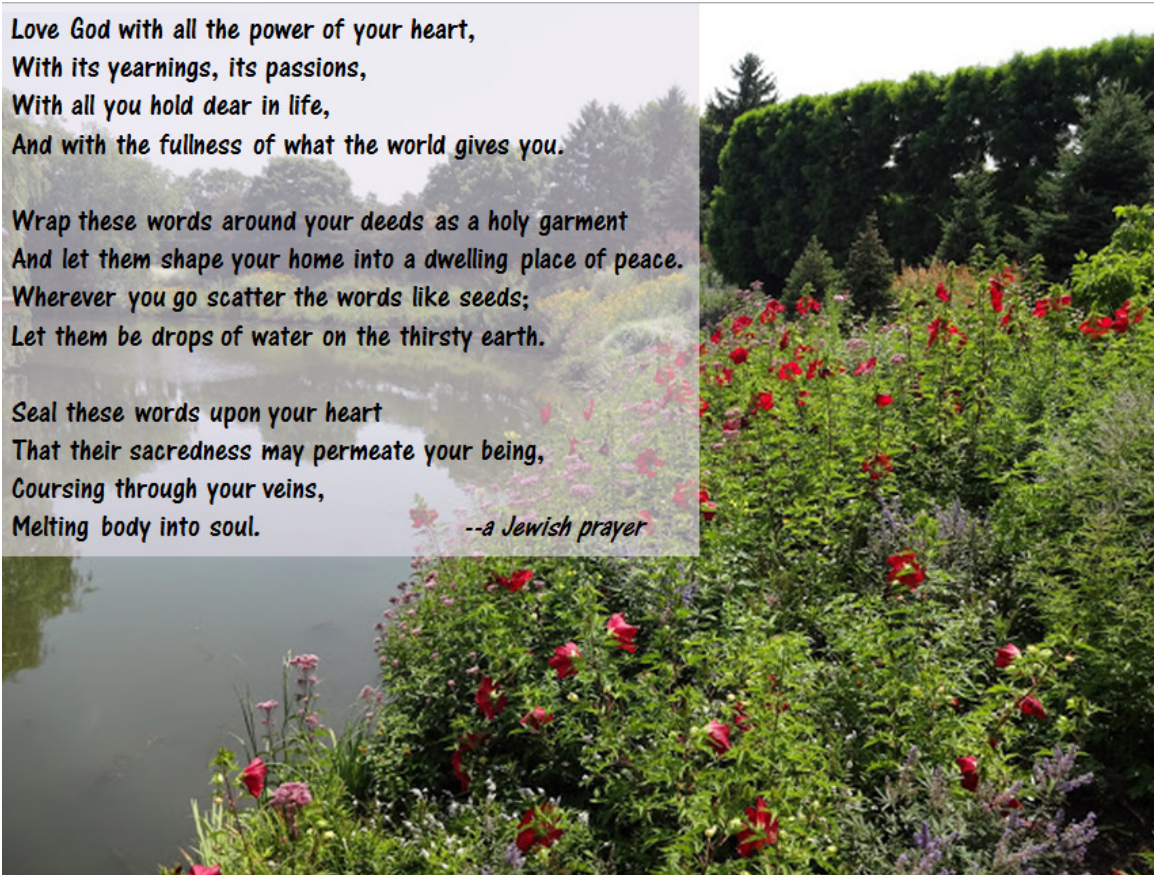
Loving God is the foundation in both the Old and New Testaments, but it brings us to a different place in the New Testament. If we as Christians are focusing on loving God and having God bless our lands, family, abundance, long life and prosperity, milk and honey and Mercedes Benz', we are in the wrong place! Christian love for God brings us into a different standing.

This was a new way. Christianity as the *house of sons* shows the results of our loving God.

Love God with all the power of your heart,  
With its yearnings, its passions,  
With all you hold dear in life,  
And with the fullness of what the world gives you.

Wrap these words around your deeds as a holy garment  
And let them shape your home into a dwelling place of peace.  
Wherever you go scatter the words like seeds;  
Let them be drops of water on the thirsty earth.

Seal these words upon your heart  
That their sacredness may permeate your being,  
Coursing through your veins,  
Melting body into soul. *--a Jewish prayer*



### First, what was under the Jewish nation:

Galatians 4:1-7: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup>So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

### Now, what is:

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup>so that he might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! <sup>7</sup>Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

There is a significant difference between loving God in the Old Testament and the New Testament. The foundation is the same but the results are different because we are in a different relationship with God: sons of God through Jesus vs. sons of Abraham and servants of God.

So *at this time*, is loving God enough? The answer is no. We must live a life of sacrifice. It is no longer about just getting a physical benefit. Certainly our homes, jobs and children can be blessed, but that is not the key point.

Both groups are chosen, both must love and represent God, one from a heavenly perspective, the other from an earthly perspective. There is a difference in both inheritance and application.



## So, what is required to love God as a "son?"

More to it than brain patterns, *A God Spot*, [testoffaith.com](http://testoffaith.com)

- (Interviewer) *But is it a surprise that any human experience, including spiritual experience, is accompanied by brain activity?*
- (Dr. Alistair Coles) *If someone wanted to come along and link me up to electrodes while I was praying or while I was in worship, and find that my brain patterns were slightly different, then that wouldn't be a great surprise to me. I think spiritual experience is real, and therefore there should be a way of looking at that in terms of the physicality of the brain. But just to look at those brain patterns and to say that that is all that spiritual experience is seems to me to be mistaken.*

1 John 5:1-3: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

This sounds very "Old Testament-like."

Matthew 7:12-14: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (This sounds very "Old Testament-like, too!") <sup>13</sup>Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Here is another defined difference: a call to individuals to walk a narrow, sacrificial way.



A caller from Connecticut suggests Matthew 6:33: *But strive first for the kingdom of God and all these things will be given to you as well.* God asks us to love Him. When you love someone, you love what they love. You watch the same sports with your friends, and you watch a movie you may not like with your wife. Loving God means sharing His life. Luke 12:12: *For the Holy Spirit will at that very hour teach you what you ought to say.* You love God by loving Him first and loving what He loves, His creation. You love that person who annoys you, you love the good deeds He is asking you to perform, you love Him for the opportunities to love as He loves. John 16:27: *For the Father Himself loves you because you have loved me and believed that I came from God.*

Christianity is not just a belief. We have to live it. This narrow way is an individual walk through persecution! That doesn't sound so nice...what is persecution?

**Persecution:** Strong's #1377 diwkw dioko dee-o'-ko; to pursue (literally or figuratively); by implication, to persecute, ensue, follow (after), given to, (suffer) persecute (-ion), press forward.





### **We are led by example:**

John 16:31-33: (NRSV) <sup>31</sup>*Jesus answered them, do you now believe?* <sup>32</sup>*The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.* <sup>33</sup>*I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!*

**Loving God through Christ will bring persecution - why? Because you are set apart from all others!**

2 Timothy 3:12: *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer **persecution** <1377>.*

**...Set apart to be “buried” with Jesus in the baptism of his death and therefore walk in a new life:**

Romans 6:3-7: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>*Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death?* <sup>4</sup>*Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.* <sup>5</sup>*For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection,* <sup>6</sup>*knowing this, that our old self was crucified with him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;* <sup>7</sup>*for he who has died is freed from sin.*

The Old Testament was about living and had nothing to do with death and resurrection in anyone’s likeness. Being baptized as a Christian is not just about getting wet. It is a picture of the *death* of our own will. This is a mature decision to make.

**Our living is to live a new and transformed sacrificial life as a “New Creature” in Christ:**

2 Corinthians 5:17: (NASB) *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

**Do God’s Old Testament servants and New Testament sons  
love one another in the same way?**

Living as a son means:

- a call to individuals to walk a narrow, sacrificial way;
- an individual walk through persecution;
- to be set apart to be buried with Jesus in the baptism of his death; and
- to live a new and transformed sacrificial life as a New Creature in Christ.





## Another example of the Old Testament focus on loving God - this time the blessing given to the two and a half tribes who settled on the east side of the Jordan River:

**Joshua 22:1-6: (NASB)** <sup>1</sup>Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, <sup>2</sup>and said to them, you have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have listened to my voice in all that I commanded you. <sup>3</sup>You have not forsaken your brothers these many days to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the LORD your God. <sup>4</sup>And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brothers, as He spoke to them; therefore turn now and go to your tents, to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan.

Loyalty to the nation, to God and to Joshua earned the blessing of going home.

### But then he cautioned them:

<sup>5</sup>Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>6</sup>So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

This was a tribal interaction in an almost political sense - you helped us - we thank you, now go back home and stay close to God. Again, this was a very physical and territorial-based love of God.

🔊 **Delivered in Jesus, [How to Love God More, youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)**

- *By the grace of God, He has delivered me, through His son Jesus Christ, of all my sins, and will take me home one day. By the grace of God, I have cares, and wounds of hate, and a painful heart at peace. But He will deliver, He will uphold His majesty, and He in me.*

### Compare the tribal interaction of Joshua with this New Testament template:

**1 Corinthians 12:12-26: (NASB)** <sup>12</sup>For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup>For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit... <sup>18</sup>But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired... <sup>21</sup>And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; or again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body, which seem to be weaker are necessary; <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable. <sup>24</sup>...God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, <sup>25</sup>so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Christianity here is compared to a physical body. There is an equality among all members of the Christian body. The purpose of our lives is different from that of the Old Testament. It is not about "getting," it is about "giving."

A Christian is drawn by God to deny one's own will to contribute to the functioning of a "body" for the fulfilling of the mission of that body under the headship of Christ. The Old Testament was about being part of a nation under the Law of Moses.



## How does the foundation of loving God for Christians compare with the future earthly foundation of Israel loving God?



**Spirituality is complex, A God Spot, [testoffaith.com](http://testoffaith.com)**

- *(Dr. Alistair Coles) To do science, people will reduce complicated human behavior to something that can be tested and measured, so the complicated behavior of religious experience to something that can be measured in an image on a particular scale. That's methodological reductionism to make it easier to do science. So, a spiritual experience is associated with a neural correlate, but that does not mean that religious experience is nothing but a neural correlate. There may well be more to it that isn't accommodated by the scientific method.*

Let's review some of the "loving God" Christian foundations:

### **Suffer - be offered up:**

Philippians 1:29: (NASB) *For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in him, but also to **suffer <3958>** for his sake.*

Just belief is not enough.

### **Be transformed - become something you were not:**

Romans 12:1-2: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

What happens to a Christian as a result of their loving God? There are a lot of benefits. They will be developed to learn how to be "sympathetic high priests" for the kingdom. They are promised to receive glory, honor and immortality. They will have a heavenly reward and will help bless all nations on earth. Because of a life of sacrifice, in advance of the world, they have the ability to bless the world later. *Many are called but few are chosen.*

Loving God was in the very beginning from Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel. Loving God was written into the Jewish Law about physical blessings like family and land. Loving God for the Christian is about sacrifice. There is not a physical reward but a spiritual one.

What about the rest of the non-Christian world and the billions who have died without ever hearing the name of Christ? The Bible tells us what the future will look like.

### **Here was a commandment for Israel, but this time it is a future commandment to take place after all of the previous ages of sin:**

Deuteronomy 30:1-10: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, <sup>2</sup>and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, <sup>3</sup>then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.*



We believe this fulfillment is already starting as it pertains to Israel.

This prophecy was made before there even was a nation of Israel - already we were told of a splintering then a regathering. This is happening right now...we live in a time when prophecy is unfolding right in front of our eyes!

*<sup>4</sup>If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. <sup>5</sup>The LORD your God will bring you into the land, which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. <sup>6</sup>Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.*

There is an unfolding process described. First, there is a return to the land their father's possessed.

The act of circumcision was given to Abraham to set the people apart. Here the prophecy says it is no longer about *outward* difference but instead *inward* difference.

God's love is boundless! No circumstances are beyond His reach, no blessing is beyond His heart and it is by these things that the circumcision of *their* hearts - their love for God will blossom to life for the preservation of their lives!

*<sup>7</sup>The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. <sup>8</sup>And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments, which I command you today.*

God fights for them and they learn new obedience.

*<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; <sup>10</sup>if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul.*

Being favored of God as His chosen nation is full of "ifs." The pathway of God's blessing for loving Him was physical in the Old Testament, for a time becomes spiritual in the New Testament, and then for the rest of the world in the kingdom becomes physical again. No matter when you live, loving God is always the most appropriate foundation.

In the end, God prospers them and they follow His laws and love Him completely.



To love God is good and necessary but to act upon that love with your whole being - that is something entirely different. What does this mean? It depends upon who you are! Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and your neighbor as yourself. Is loving God enough? It is a great start but don't stop there!

## Loving God...

OLD TESTAMENT Jews	NEW TESTAMENT Christians
Set apart from others	Set apart from others
Meant keeping His commandments	Means to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength"
Included loving your neighbor	Includes loving your neighbor
Referred to as "slaves" and "sons of Abraham"	Referred to as "sons of God"
Hebrews were chosen <u>as a nation</u>	Christians are chosen <u>individually</u>
Was all about living	Is all about "dying" – sacrificing our own wills to do God's will instead
Resulted in a bountiful physical human life – their people, land, nation, crops, etc., nothing to do with death or resurrection in anyone's likeness. In the kingdom after resurrection, loving God will again result in a bountiful physical human life.	Described as a "narrow way" of sacrifice. Our hope is to be with the Lord in heaven and receive "glory, honor and immortality" and help "bless all the nations of the earth."



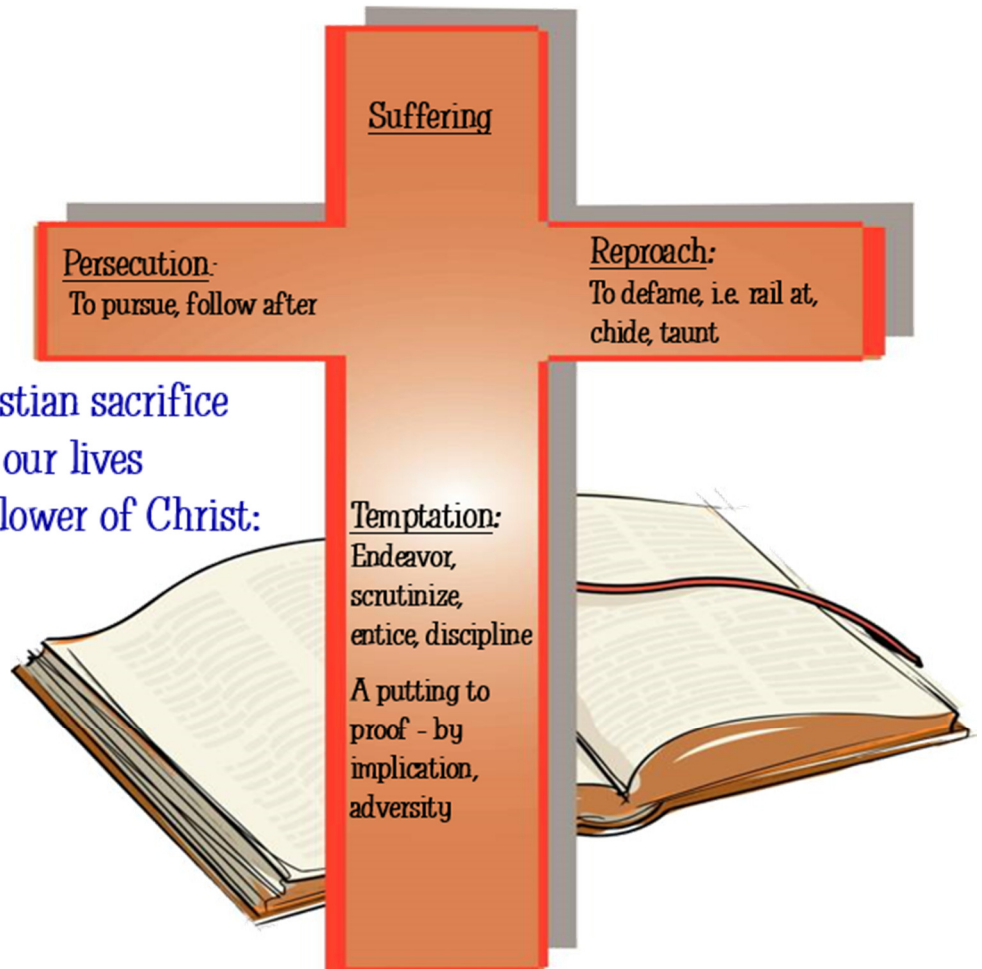
*So, is loving God enough?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





Some of the aspects of Christian sacrifice  
– a necessary component of our lives  
if we truly love God as a follower of Christ:



**To live a life of sacrifice, one must have a picture of the “why” behind it:**

**2 Timothy 3:12-17:** (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. <sup>13</sup>But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

**To love and serve is one thing, to sacrifice is another:**

**Mark 10:17-23:** (NASB) <sup>17</sup>As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to him and knelt before him, and asked him, Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? <sup>18</sup>And Jesus said to him, why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments, Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. <sup>20</sup>And he said to him, Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up. <sup>21</sup>Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, one thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. <sup>22</sup>But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus, looking around, said to his disciples, how hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!



**Matthew 16:24-26: (KJV)** <sup>24</sup>*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. <sup>26</sup>For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

To follow - deny yourself - take up your cross - follow Jesus - reset your priorities to the eternal.

**Philippians 2:5-11: (NASB)** <sup>5</sup>*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but **emptied himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>Being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

The example of Jesus is clearly a level of sacrifice that we cannot even scratch the surface of.

#### Some warnings about Christian sacrifice:

**Matthew 7:15-23: (NASB)** <sup>15</sup>*Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? <sup>17</sup>So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>So then, you will know them by their fruits. <sup>21</sup>Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in your name perform many miracles? <sup>23</sup>And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.*

#### Suffering **MUST** be for the right reasons and with the right attitude!

**1 Peter 2:19-23: (NASB)** <sup>19</sup>*For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. <sup>21</sup>For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in his steps, <sup>22</sup>who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; <sup>23</sup>and while being reviled, he did not revile in return; while suffering, he uttered no threats, but kept entrusting himself to Him who judges righteously;*