



## What Does God Want From Me?

**Mark 12:30-31:** (NASB) <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.*



If you ever want to go somewhere, it's usually a good idea to know where you are going and what the path is to get there. The destination of pleasing and serving God is no exception. The problem is there are so many interpretations as to what direction to go and what to take along with you that the average person asking the question, "What does God want from me?" will be overwhelmed by the variety of answers. So, what does God want from me? Stay with us and find out!

### Jesus tells us what God wants from us:

**Mark 12:28-31:** (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.*

Love God with your heart, soul, mind and with all your strength; love your neighbor as yourself.

### God wants your heart:

(Source: Bible commentary from Jamieson, Faucett and Brown) The Heart: the heart is distinguished both from the "mind" and the "soul." The "heart," then, must here mean the sincerity of both the thoughts and the feelings; in other words, uprightness or true-heartedness, as opposed to a hypocritical or divided affection.

**Proverbs 23:26:** (KJV) *My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*

So what does God want us to have? Here is one approach to Christianity, although it is not our approach:

 **What kind of God wants you to be miserable, Oprah with Joel Osteen, Oprah's Next Chapter**



- *Oprah: Some of the Christians say you're teaching prosperity. I was reading one of your critics and was thinking, why would anybody criticize you for teaching prosperity, because what kind of God wants you to be poor and miserable?*
- *Osteen: That's the way I feel as well. I don't know who would say that you're not supposed to leave your children better than you were before. Plus, Oprah, prospering is not only material things; it's peace in your mind and health in your body and things like that. There is a belief that you are supposed to suffer more and be poor and show your humility - I don't see the Bible that way.*

But are there only two choices - poor and miserable or seeking great prosperity?



### Your heart determines what is “treasure” to you:

**Matthew 6:19-24:** (NASB) <sup>19</sup>*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup>for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Do you have a bank account with money in it? Does that violate Scripture? Is Jesus telling us to not save any money on earth or is he saying something else? We believe he is telling us that our focus should not be materialistic. Jesus did not say that anyone rich *cannot* enter the kingdom, but if our focus is too much on material stuff, our focus will not be on spiritual things.

### Our hearts direct our “reticular activator” (we talked about that last week - the part of our brain that helps bring things into focus) - the heart directs what we see:

<sup>22</sup>*The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

Our hearts focus our eyes. So if God wants our hearts, He wants our affection! If our focus is on things here on earth, our affection is divided. That is not what He wants from us, according to His words through Jesus.

<sup>24</sup>*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*

Wealth can serve you in serving God, but we cannot search for wealth. This idea of needing to pursue wealth is off base from where Jesus instructed. If our heart is on spiritual things, the other things are clearly tools to use in God’s service rather than a means to an end.

### God wants your soul:

(Source: Bible commentary from Jamieson, Faucett and Brown) The Soul: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God” with thy soul. This is designed to command our emotional nature: Thou shalt put feeling or warmth into thine affection.

So God wants our undivided affection with our hearts, but now He wants us to include emotion, warmth and feeling. Let’s go back to the original Old Testament command from which Jesus quotes.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-7:** (NASB) <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.*

### How important is this command? See the CQ Rewind Bonus Material!

Did you notice that the original command said *heart, soul and might*. Jesus added *mind*, so perhaps that was in an original translation of the Bible that was since lost.

<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.*

How can we keep these things always in front of us unless they are driven by our emotions?

Back in the Old Testament, they had the tangible miracles from Egypt in front of them. Following God did not require the same faith that we must have. How do we keep that same focus?

Part of your “soul” is that engagement into the undivided affection of the heart. It is the emotional drive behind our actions.

**Now a comparison of outward acts of servitude vs. inward devotion:**

Micah 6:6-8: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>*With what shall I come to the LORD and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? <sup>7</sup>Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil?*

Should we light a candle? A thousand candles...? Notice the increasingly dramatic offerings...

*Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

Surely everyone would see your devotion in this! So would this please God? Is this our focus?



THAT is the true test of our devotion. These three things cannot be carried out like the sacrifices above. God does not want a repetitive offering. We are to *be devoted* and emotionally engaged in that devotion. Our sacrifice is to be *lived* and felt. Here is an example: Do we go to church just because we are “supposed” to? If so, then God does not have our soul, our undivided affection driven by emotion. He wants the very core of your being. Is this extreme? Yes, but that is what God wants from us.



**Does fear keep you from your gifts? *Your Gift Part 2, Terri Savelle Foy***

- *There are so many reasons why we don't stir up the gift of God within us. One of the biggest ones, I believe, is fear - just being afraid, being insecure, timidity, whatever it is. In fact, when Timothy was instructed to “stir upon the gift of God” within him, he was also instructed to not have the spirit of fear or timidity, but instead the power of love and self-discipline.*
- *But I want you to think about that. What are the gifts and the talents that God has put on the inside of you but you haven't developed them? What is it that you know in your heart you are supposed to be doing but you have been too afraid to just step out and do it - to overcome that fear and just do it?*

Satan sometimes uses the tool of fear to hold us back. Fear is an emotion, and often our emotion derails our devotion. Can we think of an example?

**This account is of a demon-possessed boy and his desperate father:**

**Mark 9:20-24:** (KJV) <sup>20</sup>And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. <sup>21</sup>And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. <sup>22</sup>And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

The father of the child had already asked the disciples to help to no avail.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. <sup>24</sup>And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

The father had both belief and unbelief and was agonizing in between. Jesus helped him and cast out the demon.

God wants our heart - our undivided affection - but He *always* wants our soul - the very core of our emotions that drive us, our full being. God wants more from us than to just show up and nod in agreement. We are either “all in” or not.



**God wants your mind:**

(Source: Bible commentary from Jamieson, Faucett and Brown) *The Mind: with thy mind* – This commands our intellectual nature: Thou shalt put intelligence into thine affection—in opposition to a blind devotion, or mere devotee-ism.

Now we are to put intelligence into our devotion!



**Why are some poor, broke and depressed? Oprah with Joel Osteen, Oprah's Next Chapter**

- *Osteen: Jesus died that we might live an abundant life and to be a blessing to others. I can't be a blessing to people if I'm poor and broke and depressed and don't feel good about myself!*
- *Oprah: If you are poor, broke, or depressed, is that because you don't pray enough...or because you're not in alignment with God?*
- *Osteen: I think it's a mixture of things. I don't think it's just not praying enough, because there are some great people that just haven't broken through in that area.*

Why is it that we assume that all poor people have to be depressed? Is it possible to not be depressed and not have a lot? Of course! We do not believe it is in the destiny of each and every dedicated Christian to have “stuff.” We are to be content with what we have and to love the Lord our God with our hearts, mind, soul and strength.

Just because you don't *have*, doesn't mean you can't *be*.

The Lord is looking for what we *are*, not what we *have*.

Proverbs 16:18-19: (KJV) <sup>18</sup>*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.* <sup>19</sup>*Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.*

It is better at times to not have a lot and maintain humility than to divide the spoils with the proud.

Matthew 5:3: (NASB) *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Oftentimes with “stuff” comes pride and ego that gets puffed up. This is a danger. We are to be doing God's will and not our own.

It is not good to just feel good after hearing a sermon, or even after listening to Christian Questions! We must have intelligence behind our devotion. Unless we feed our minds, the emotions will fade.

Matthew 11:28-30: (NASB) <sup>28</sup>*Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup>*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* <sup>30</sup>*For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

Remember, we are taking Jesus' yoke upon us. That implies work.

**God wants us to *decide* to be content:**

Philippians 4:11-13: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>*Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.* <sup>12</sup>*I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.* <sup>13</sup>*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

Did the Apostle Paul have a really great retirement account? No, but he had a dependency on Jesus. He *learned* to be content - he did not just accept his circumstances begrudgingly. *It was his decision to be content.*

### God wants us to apply our minds to understanding:

**2 Timothy 2:14-16:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. <sup>15</sup>Be diligent to **present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.** <sup>16</sup>But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness...

We want to put in the “sweat equity” that goes into the development of the study of God’s word. Do we know *why* we believe what we believe? That’s the key. It is not just feeling and emotion; we need to know why we believe what we do and that takes work. Our Bibles should be falling apart from use!

### God wants our minds engaged in the work of the Gospel:

**2 Timothy 4:1-5:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

### God wants our minds prepared for great spiritual challenges to come:

<sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup>But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Don’t follow those who are not leading you down the path of the true Gospel! Only you can know that - if you apply your intelligence and not just listen to your emotions.

Is it good enough just to go to church on Sunday or think about the Bible once in awhile? The answer is no if you want to be a true follower of Christ and go beyond just having an appreciation for God.

### God wants your strength:

(Source: Bible commentary from Jamieson, Faucett and Brown) Strength: *with thy strength* – This commands our energies: Thou shalt put intensity into thine affection— “Do it with thy might.” (#Ec 9:10).

### How does God want us to apply our strength?

**2 Timothy 1:6-8:** (NASB) <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. <sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God...

We are to be zealous for the Lord! Our spiritual adrenaline should be flowing in His service!



**Forces trying to keep us down, Oprah with Joel Osteen, Oprah’s Next Chapter**

- *Osteen: I think that there are forces trying to hold us all down. A lot of people haven’t been trained and they haven’t been inspired that, hey, you know what? You’re in the projects, but you don’t have to stay there. God has a plan for your life. And you believe and you pray and you do everything you can. So I think a lot of it is we just accept it. This is the way it’s always been. We’re always broke, we’re always*

*defeated, but you know what? Somebody can rise out of it. You did. You look at that.*

### **Does God want us to apply our strength to improve our life?**

**1 Timothy 5:8:** (NASB) *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Yes, there is action necessary to take care of that which we are responsible. It is a reflection upon the Gospel. This has nothing to do with trying to get rich.

### **God wants us to apply our strength to self-denial and not self-improvement:**

**Luke 9:22-25:** (NASB) <sup>22</sup>saying, *The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.* <sup>23</sup>And he was saying to them all, *If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

Here is described a clear road to self-sacrifice...and who wants to go there?!? *Picking up the cross* means dying. Self-improvement is good, but it should be in the context of self-improvement so that you can serve and be more Christ-like.

### **God wants our self-denial to be complete:**

<sup>24</sup>For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake, he is the one who will save it. <sup>25</sup>For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

Our focus in life is to take care of our family obligations. As a Christian we are not obligated to seek our fortune. If you find it, however, how are you using your fortune in self-denial and in serving Christ?

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10:** (NASB) <sup>7</sup>Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup>Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. <sup>9</sup>And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

God wants us to apply our strength and energy to being able to give Him glory in our weakness. We want to put the important things in place to serve God. We should come to the Gospel to give what we have, and not for earthly prosperity.

(Source: Bible commentary from Jamieson, Faucett and Brown) Thou shalt love the Lord thy God," says the Law, "with all thy heart," or, with perfect sincerity; "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul," or, with the utmost fervor; "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind," or, in the fullest exercise of an enlightened reason; and "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy strength," or, with the whole energy of our being!

Now that we have the first Commandment down, it is on to the second:

**God wants you to love your neighbor as yourself**



**Leviticus 19, love thy neighbor, Rabbi Jonathan Ginsberg**



- *One of the pivotal and central verses of the Hebrew Bible, the Torah, in the middle of the middle book, Leviticus, the holiness code, it says, love thy neighbor as thyself. What's so fascinating about that is although it is the first time it appears in literature that we know of, if you check almost any culture and you will find exactly the same sentiment.*

The statement, *love thy neighbor*, is even more powerful when we review the context in which it was said.

**First, be just:**

**Leviticus 19:15-18:** (KJV) <sup>15</sup>*Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.*

**Second, be respectful:**

<sup>16</sup>*Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.*

**Third, be compassionate, not vengeful:**

<sup>17</sup>*Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. <sup>18</sup>Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people...*

**Fourth, be loving:**

*...but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.*



**All the same message, Rabbi Jonathan Ginsberg**

- *(He quotes various cultures throughout history and their same resounding theme.)*

Did all of these cultures present this philosophy in such a specific context?

**Zechariah 7:8-10:** (NASB) <sup>8</sup>*Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah saying, <sup>9</sup>Thus has the LORD of hosts said, Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; <sup>10</sup>and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.*

Justice was to be delivered with kindness and compassion. Imagine if the whole world would apply the principle of loving your neighbor as yourself?

Jesus now takes this well-defined teaching from the Old Testament and dramatically magnifies it...

**He addresses hateful attitudes - the treatment of others:**

**Luke 6:27-33:** (NASB) <sup>27</sup>*But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

We are to pray even for those who mistreat us!!!



**He addresses hateful actions:**

<sup>29</sup>Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either.

Don't retaliate in like manner evil for evil.

**He teaches practical generosity:**

<sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back.

**He sums up the lesson with profound simplicity:**

<sup>31</sup>Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.

**He encourages us to step higher than all other cultures:**

<sup>32</sup>If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

 **New Testament and Mohammed, all the same message, Rabbi Jonathan Ginsberg**

- ...And then Christianity comes on the scene and the Gospel of Luke from their New Testament: “As you would that men should do to you, do you also to them likewise.” Mohammed in 7<sup>th</sup> century Islam: “Say not if people are good to us, we will be good to them; and if people oppress us, we should oppress them, but resolve that if people do good to you, you should do good to them. If they oppress you, oppress them not again.”

Galatians 5:13-15: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>15</sup>But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

This is how we express what God wants from us - by loving our neighbor as ourselves. Did you notice that the concept is introduced in the Old Testament, expanded on by Jesus, and then reiterated by the Apostles? This is a core value.

 **All cultures agree, Rabbi Jonathan Ginsberg**

- So, maybe the most important thing to God is that simple rule: Love thy neighbor as thyself. And do not do to others what you would not like done to yourself. It seems to be broad in every culture. So whether it's Micah - what does God want from us but to do justice and love mercy and to walk humbly with God? Or is this idea from Leviticus - the first time it was presented anywhere but repeated by so many cultures - to love thy neighbor as thyself? It's seems pretty clear that God wants mercy and compassion and love and to treat all human beings as it says in the beginning of Genesis, in the image of God.



**Observation:** So many ancient cultures adopt this philosophy - why is this second commandment (love thy neighbor) and not the first commandment (love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength) that Jesus proclaimed the most important? Why did the first commandment get lost?

**This next Scripture answers that question:**

**Romans 1:20-22:** (NASB) <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools...

We therefore must be sure we do not fall into the same trap. Our world fights against an Intelligent Creator with a grand design.

If we love God first and foremost:

- Our perspective will be long term and from above.
- We will see ourselves as created, and therefore we will be humbled.
- Loving our neighbor will be a full and Godly experience.

**So, what does God want from us?**

- **God wants your HEART - your undivided sincerity and affection**

**Psalms 23:4:** (NASB) *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

- **God wants your SOUL - your deepest emotional devotion**

**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 (from the word “metamorphosis”) 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.

Do you want to be a caterpillar or a butterfly? We are to be transformed so that our deepest emotional devotion is in line with God’s will.

- **God wants your MIND - your brightest intellect**

**2 Corinthians 10:5:** (NASB) *We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,*

Have you ever really considered *taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ*? We have to keep bringing our minds back to focus on serving God.

- **God wants your STRENGTH - the core energy of your life**

**1 Timothy 6:12:** (NASB) *Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

It takes strength to fight! Hold on to that which is important!

THEN, once you love God SO completely:

- **God wants you to love your neighbor as yourself**

**Luke 6:31:** (NASB) *Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.*

Simple! This is what God wants from us. He doesn't want us to just show up on a Sunday or just appreciate the things of God without devotion. God is above all, and because we love Him so completely, we can therefore love our neighbor as they deserve to be loved.

*What does God want from me?  
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!*

### The original “command” in its larger context:

Deuteronomy 6:1-16: (KJV) <sup>1</sup>Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: <sup>2</sup>That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. <sup>3</sup>Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

So basically, what Israel is being told by God is: “Your life is going to change when you inherit the land and I want you to now adopt all of my commands fully so when you get there, you will already be positioned to stay as my faithful and chosen people...”

<sup>4</sup>Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: <sup>5</sup>And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. <sup>6</sup>And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Here is a summation of all the commandments - Love your God with everything in you...

<sup>7</sup>And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Your devotion to God is generational and is to be spoken about at all times of day...

<sup>8</sup>And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. <sup>9</sup>And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Your devotion to God will be read in what you do, what you see and where you live...

<sup>10</sup>And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, <sup>11</sup>And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

Your devotion to God will be tested when you inherit the land and all its development...

<sup>12</sup>Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. <sup>13</sup>Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

Remember where you came from and who delivered you! Serve HIM!

<sup>14</sup>Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; <sup>15</sup>(For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

Your devotion will be tested, as other gods will be present and tempting, but they are not the one God deserving of your devotion. Remain devoted or be destroyed!

**The three Gospel renderings of the theme text:**

Matthew 22:37: Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Mark 12:30: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Luke 10:27: And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

**A few more texts on what God wants from us:**

Proverbs 3:1-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; <sup>2</sup>For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. <sup>3</sup>Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.

**Are we willing to do what was asked of this rich young ruler?**

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!

**Let's do what Jesus tells us to do!**

John 14:15-17: (ASV) <sup>15</sup>If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you for ever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you.

**Live for a higher cause!**

Matthew 5:10-16: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets





who were before you. <sup>13</sup>You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup>nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup>Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus wants us to see beyond pain, inconvenience and embarrassment...

### **Bask in the privilege of trials and tests!**

James 1:2-8: (NASB) <sup>2</sup>Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup>And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. <sup>5</sup>But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup>being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.