

# Love God With Your Whole Heart

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Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us at AirJesus.com. Stay tuned to today's message. I would like to read a little humor I came across last week. And it reads – A doctor broke the bad news to a man that his wife would have to be admitted to a psychiatric hospital. I'm afraid her mind is completely gone. Makes sense, mumbled the man. She's been giving me a piece of it everyday for the last fifteen years. I figured the men will like that one. The women didn't laugh but that's okay. Women, I'll do a joke for you next time.

Open your bibles if you will to the Book of Deuteronomy chapter 6. Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Old Testament. Deuteronomy 6:5, when you get there say Amen. Let's read together in unison. "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Now, I just love this verse. I read it in the Message Bible and it reads this way, "Love God, your God, with your whole heart, love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got.

I love that, I love that and I just want to use it as a subject. "Loving God With Your Whole Heart". In fact, turn to your neighbor – and I want you to just repeat that verse with me. We're going to repeat it from the Message Bible. Listen to it and tell it to your neighbor. Love God, your God with your whole heart, Love him with all that's in you. Love him with all you've God. Praise God. So we are talking about loving God with your whole heart.

I woke up one morning last week and those two words were just, I guess they were there waiting on me to wake up. You know, it's almost like they were just standing there in front of my face so as soon as my eyes open, these two words were there in my spirit. Whole hearted, and I instantly knew God was impressing upon my spirit. Loving him with our whole heart, not a fragment, not a piece, not giving him some space, not giving him some time but loving him with our whole heart, with our entire being, loving him with all that we have. Loving him not just on Sundays, not just in Sunday School, not just in Bible Study, but loving him at work, loving him at play, loving him at home, loving him when you're out, loving him when you're lying down, loving him when you're getting up, loving him when you're taking a shower, loving him when you're washing clothes, loving him when you're washing dishes, loving him when you're washing the car, loving him when you're playing with your kids, loving him when you're doing your job, loving him with your whole heart.

And I instantly knew when I heard those two words, 'whole hearted'; I knew that God wanted us to give him preeminence in our lives. Give him the proper place that he deserves in our lives, not half hearted – so many of us, myself included we are guilty of half hearted devotion to God. God, I'll see you on Sunday, I might even tip you, I might even drop you something in the offering plate. And that is really the extent, we don't think about him anymore. We go about our busy days and our busy

lives and we reserve him and give him that little box space on Sunday morning and those of you who are even a little better you might even show up on a Thursday. But know got wants us to love him with our whole heart, with our mind with our strength with all of our might, with all of our soul.

I read a psalm and I do have it in my notes and tend to take it if we have time but David got so excited, he loved God with his fingers. He loved God with his eyes. He loved God with his mind, with his soul. He loved God with everything that he had. He loved God so much. On one instance he danced naked. He literally danced out of his kingly armor and outfit and he danced out of his guard and his wife despised him. But I believe this is one of the reasons that God loved David so much and God said – David had a heart after God's own heart. David loved God with everything that he had. And I believe that's why God gave David such preeminence in history and in Scripture, that even when Jesus came upon the earth, they called him Son of David, thou son of David.

God gave great promise to David that he would always have lineage that will sit on the throne of Israel because there was something special and I believe it was because David loved God with his whole heart, with all of his might, with all of his strength, with all of his mind, with everything that he had. He loved God, he loved God, in spite of his sin, and he loved God so much. He loved God so much with everything that he had and I believe that David as a result had a special place in the heart of God.

Turn over to the book of Mark, the gospel of Mark chapter 12. Somebody showed up and asked Jesus a question, actually an Attorney, a Lawyer, a Scribe, a Pharisee. Look at Mark 12:28, begin with verse 28, and we'll read through verse 30, I want you to see something that Jesus says.

“<sup>28</sup>And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

<sup>29</sup>And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

<sup>30</sup>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.

That is the first commandment, to love before anything else. It all begins here. The first commandment, the very first commandment, the most important commandment, in fact, I would venture to say, this is the most important thing in life. This is it. This is the most important thing. Love God with all your heart, with

all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength, with all your might, with everything you've got. Love God. Love God.

God wants us to have a whole hearted devotion. He didn't want us to live half hearted toward him or lukewarm toward him. God wants us to be red hot toward him. Turn to your neighbor and say – God wants us to be red hot toward him. He wants to be the center of our affection. He wants to be the center of our desire. He wants to be the center of our joy. God wants us to be in hot pursuit of him.

I want you to see David and the pursuit that he had. Turn over to Psalm 63, I want you to see the pursuit that David had after God, Psalm 63, and this is why I'm telling you David had a special place in the heart of God because he loved God with such – he loved God with such a passion with everything that he had. Look at Psalms 63:1, notice this:

<sup>1</sup>O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

He said God, I'm thirsting out for you – now David, was actually relaying his physical environment at that time. He was physically thirsty. He was in a hot land. He was, in fact – at one point David was so thirsty, he said I would give anything for a drink of water. And his men broke through the enemy – brought him back a drink of water. And David poured it out as a sacrifice to God but he was so thirsty physically and he relayed that spiritually into his love for God. He said, God, he said, I'm thirsting after you, just as much as I want a cold glass of water out here in the desert, as much as my body could use something that quenches thirst. He said, "God that's how thirsty I am for you! I want you so bad God! I want you Lord to be a refreshing drink to me in a dry and a thirsty land. God I long for you. My soul longs for you. God I miss you, I want you, I just got to have you. I'm longing for you."

Notice, I love that. I just love the way David – notice what is in verse 2, "To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary." Notice this, "Because thy loving kindness is better than life..." One translation says, "Your love means more than life to me." Your love means more than life to me.

What if we just had a craving for God like that? To crave – anybody ever had a craving for something? Anybody ever had a craving? You know, sometimes cravings will make us do some – you know we really go out of our way just to satisfy a craving. We really go out of our way to satisfy a craving. I can recall driving thirty minutes just to get some ice cream. I was out of town at some relative's house and they said, "You've got to go taste this ice cream".

We drove, we just had a taste for ice cream. We just had a taste – and you know, some people do it, I've heard – One lady told me, she'd drive an hour just to get to Starbucks, just to satisfy when she has a craving. There would be times I'll do the

same thing when I want to go get me a fresh fruit smoothie. Sometimes I'll drive an hour round-trip because I'm craving. And so, we'll do some – anybody else has some cravings, where it just made you go beyond, because you were craving something. And you just went because you want.

I remember we had some guest speakers here and when service was over. We want some barbecue. And brother Earl was driving, they said – we want some barbecue. They had a craving for some barbecue. So cravings will make us really do after – it will really make us do things we wouldn't normally do, things that just look beyond reason. What if we crave God like that. What if we crave God to the extent where we would be really willing to go after him? You know, God wants us to want him.

Turn to your neighbor and say – God wants us to want him. He won't push himself on us but we must pursue him. He's not going to force himself on us, we have to go after him. The Bible says, you draw not to God; he'll draw not to you. You can have as much as of God as you want. You can be as close to God as you want to be. He leaves that up to you. He said you draw not to him; he'll draw not to you. So he doesn't force himself, we got to pursue God. We got to go after God.

I read an interesting verse in another translation. Let me read it to you it says – When you get serious, this is God speaking, when you get serious about finding me and wanted more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed. That's what God says. When you get serious about finding me and you want it worse than anything else, more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed.

God is in other words – God said, “You've got to come after me. If you are going to be serious, you've got to seriously want me.” God is not just – he's not just forcing himself on us. God say, “If you want to be close to me, you've got to come out, you've got to crave me, you've got to desire me, you've got to long for me, you've got to come after me, you've got to seek me. And so, God wants us to want him.

Turn to your neighbor and say – God wants us to want him. Listen to this verse, you don't have to turn there but Hosea 6:6 in the Living Bible, listen to what it says, God speaking, he says, “I don't want your sacrifices, I don't want your sacrifices, I want your love.” I don't want your offering; I want you to know me. That's what God says in Hosea 6:6 in the Living Bible. He is not after your offering; he's not after your tithe. God wants you. God wants your heart. God has poured himself out and loved us so much. He wants us to reciprocate back to him the love that he shared on us. He wants us to love him back. God deeply loves you and desires your love in return. Can you hear the passion in that verse?

Listen to the passage, I don't want your offering, I want your love. I don't want your sacrifice, I want you to know me. God is passionate about you. God wants you to love him with your whole heart.

Now, here's something I thought about that will let you know if you wholeheartedly love God, if you go after him with a whole heart. Here's something I thought about – a little test we can give your cell. If you ask yourself this, is God my first thought when my eyes open in the morning. And if he's not your first thought when your eyes open in the morning, your heart is not whole heartedly chasing after him.

And I judge that in my own life. I know that when I'm really passionate about God, I know that when I'm really flying with God, when I'm really passionate about God, first thing in the morning when my eyes open, I can't wait. Like, Lord God just give me a moment, let me brush my teeth and use the bathroom. Lord God, I can't wait to get in my knees and to be with you. I love you so much, I can tell the condition of my spiritual life about what happens to me when my eyes open in the morning.

If other things are going through my mind when my eyes first open, I know my heart is not whole heartedly following God. That's a good little test, you've got to give yourself. Try it tomorrow morning. As soon as your eyes open, what is your first thought. What is your first thought that will let you what's the condition of your heart and let you know what are the contents of your heart. What's in your heart? What is your first thought? But man I could tell you, there is no greater feeling than your first thought when your eyes open in the morning – O Jesus I cannot wait. Just give me a moment to brush my teeth. Oh Lord God, give me a moment, just to use the restroom Lord God. I can't wait to get in your presence! I can't wait to talk with you Lord God. I can't wait to b with you. God, I love you so much!

Here's a verse to start your morning of and I've trained myself to do it. First thing I say to the Lord, "Lord God I love you. I love you with all my heart, I love you with all my soul, I love you with all my strength. I love you with all my might and I love my neighbor as myself. That's my first declaration. I train myself to do that. That's my first declaration in the morning. God I love you. I love you with all my heart, I love you with all my soul, I love you with all my might. I love you with all my strength and I love my neighbor as myself. Put a declaration to begin your day.

That's how you start your day and what you're doing, sometimes you're saying that by faith. Sometimes your heart condition is actually not right. You're actually not loving your neighbor. You haven't been really thinking too much about God. But actually what you're doing, you are declaring that by faith and it begins to align your spirit to come into alignment with your declaration. So first thing in the morning, just let that be your declaration. God I love you with all my heart. Remember, this is the first commandment. This is the greatest commandment. This is it. They came to Jesus. They said, "Jesus, you know the scriptures, Jesus, you've studied the Scriptures all your life. What is the greatest commandment? Without fail, Jesus said, "Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength and love thy neighbor as yourself.

He said, That's it! Those are the two great commandments. He said, "All the law, all the prophets, all the scriptures hang on these two.

That is the nail on the wall of God. Everything else hangs on that nail. Turn to your neighbor and say – "That's the nail." Once you have that nail, you got it. All you've got to do is nail and then hang on. Everything else hangs on those two. Love God with all your heart. God wants to be in every part of your life. We relegated God to just Sunday morning and just the Bible Study and to just Church built. No, God wants to be in your relationships. God wants to be – he wants to be in your love life, he wants to be in your family life, he wants to be in your career decisions and career life, your job life. God wants to be even when you're out having fun. God wants to be a part of your recreation. God wants to be here, to woven into every facet, every part of our lives. He wants us to love him wholeheartedly.

That's how you love God, wholeheartedly, when your whole life belongs to him. The apostle Paul said, he says, "I don't mind dying" because he said to die is gain. He said, to live – notice what he said in living – he said, "To live is Christ, to die is gain" He said, if I live, everything is Christ to me; if I live it's all about Christ. He said if I die, that's even better because I'm going to be with Christ. Notice that. To live is Christ. He was wholeheartedly serving God in every area of his life. So invite God into all areas, all aspects, and all facets of your life.

Well, let's look at some other scriptures really quick. Turn over to Jeremiah chapter 24, now see, I'm not going to get done with – I may have to continue this next time, but Jeremiah 24:7, notice what it says, "And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart."

You see what God was really after? God was after his people – just to come back to him with their whole heart. He wants us to love him wholeheartedly—whole with everything that we have. You all remember that little – the text I gave, the translation that we love so much in the opening. Listen to this once again. Deuteronomy 6:5. Turn to your neighbor and repeat it after me. Love God, your God, with your whole heart. Love him with all that's in you. Love him with all you've got.

Folks that is it, that is the sum of the whole matter. You know, in Ecclesiastes, Solomon was a brilliant man, scholar in every subject, great philosopher. He had figured out – he had looked at life from every angle. He had imagined everything possible in life. He figured it out. This is where he concluded in Ecclesiastes, I believe in chapter 12. He said, to sum up the whole matter, he said, fear God and keep his commandments. He said, that is it, he said – That's what I have concluded in life. The wisest man on earth, he said, fear God, and keep his commandments. He said that's the conclusion of the whole matter. And Jesus said, if you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your might, with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

I'll just give you that charge to re-examine your heart, re-examine your priorities, re-examine your life to see if you're loving God with all your heart. If you are wholehearted toward him, God knows when we're not wholehearted toward him. He knows the motives of our hearts. He knows when our hearts are toward him and when they aren't. God knows when we're going everything else but him and God wants us to go after him the same way we go after everything else.

We go after everything else and we forget God. Love God with all your hearts. So we are talking about loving God with a whole heart. We may pick up – because I have quite a few scriptures we didn't get to so we may pick up and continue next time.

We want to thank those of you watching by television, I want you to go to [AirJesus.com](http://AirJesus.com). You can listen to this message, Message #7463, "Loving God with Your Whole Heart". You can listen to it in its entirety and you can also email it to a friend absolutely free of charge.

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