

LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR MIND (Part 1)

1. LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART REQUIRES LOVING HIM WITH OUR MIND

Mark 12:30³⁰ *You shall love the LORD your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**.*

- a. God created us to love Him in four spheres of our life, which are our heart (affections), soul (personality), mind (thoughts), and strength (resources), because He loves us this way. We can only love God with all our heart by seeking to love Him with our mind, soul, and strength in practical ways.
- b. This week and next we are going to consider some of what it means to love God with our mind. We express love for God with our mind by putting things in our mind that inspire and enlarge our capacity to love Him and by resisting things that diminish our capacity to love Him. What we do with our mind greatly affects our ability to receive and express His love.

Rom. 8:5⁵ *Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

Col. 3:2² *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

- c. Loving God with our mind includes
 - i meditating on the Word as we cry for the spirit of revelation of God's heart and ways, so that we may come into more and more agreement with who He is and how He views us and leads us.
 - ii choosing to forget or remember. It takes a process that we must commit to by continually and deliberately feeding our mind on truth.

Phil. 3:13¹³ *One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward.*

Jude 17¹⁷ *Beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles.*

John 8:32³² *You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free [liberate the heart].*

- d. Knowing and loving are deeply connected. We grow in love for God by growing our knowledge of God and agreement with Him. Agreement is the essence of love and/or union. Knowing is both informational and experiential. Thus, there is a mental aspect and an emotional aspect.

Phil. 1:9⁹ *...I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge [of God]..."*

- e. Loving God with our mind includes meditation on the Word so that we may come into agreement more and more with who He is and how He views and leads us. When we think on what the Spirit thinks, then love is awakened in us and makes our emotions feel alive with holy desire.
 - i This includes refusing lies about Jesus as our Bridegroom, King, and Judge.
 - ii This includes resisting wrong thinking that promotes shame, bitterness, lust, ingratitude, etc.
- f. The Lord encouraged Joshua to engage his mind in long and loving meditation on God's Word. God's Word equips us to think rightly about God, ourselves, others, the future, and more.

Josh. 1: 8⁸ *...you shall meditate in it [God's Word] day and night, that you may...do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous...[and] have good success.*

- g. Moses cried out to see God’s glory to understand God and His ways

Ex. 33:18¹⁸ *And he [Moses] said, “Please, show me Your glory.”*

Ps. 103:5-7⁷ *He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.*

- h. Paul’s heart came alive with loving fascination with God by meditating on Jesus and His plans.

Rom. 11:33³³ *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments [decisions] and His ways past finding out!*

- i. When we seek revelation of God as one who seeks hidden treasure, we find delight in Him.

Prov. 2:2-5² *Apply your heart to understanding; ³ yes, if you cry out ... and lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

Eph. 1:16-17¹⁶ *I do not cease ... making mention of you in my prayers ¹⁷ that the ... Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

2. UNDERSTANDING THE VASTNESS AND POWER OF THE HUMAN MIND

- a. God created us after His own image and likeness (Gen. 1:26). One aspect of this is seen in the vastness of the human mind, which will be seen as eternity unfolds. It is like a mysterious internal universe with a memory more powerful than a computer with trillions of gigabytes.
- b. The language of the mind is images. It is an internal movie screen that provides us with pictures. Our memory is a vast reservoir of near endless visuals. Imagination was given to us by God to visualize His truth and to interact with Him in a deep and continual way throughout eternity.
- c. We are constantly in a movie and conversation in our mind. The Lord created us this way for ceaseless dialogue with Him. So much of our life is lived in our minds, because we can never turn our minds off. It is the continual reality and stream of our life. When our body sleeps, our mind stays active, dreaming through night.
- d. Our mind defines so much of who we are and how we love. We can express ourselves in many ways, but still only a very small percentage of what we think can be expressed and known.
- e. Because of Jesus giving us the Holy Spirit, we can supernaturally erase wrong movies and replace them with new ones that bring us life and peace. This is called renewing our mind.

Rom. 12:2² *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

Titus 3:5⁵ *He saved [delivered] us, through the washing ... and renewing of the Holy Spirit.*

Eph. 4:17-23¹⁷ *You should no longer walk as the ... the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened ... ²³ Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*

- f. To love God with all our mind is a supernatural possibility. Through meditation, we can take the reins of our mind and write the script of the movie that we continually watch within. We cannot shut down the images in our mind, but we can redirect them.
- g. As our mind is renewed, the Spirit releases supernatural activity in our mind called life and peace. In this, Jesus becomes our first thought—our holy daydream, or our sweet escape from lust, pride, and fear as we retreat into His beauty and love. Jesus desires to be our resting place, or getaway—the one we think about when we take a deep breath or while driving alone.

Rom. 8:6 ⁶ *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

- h. To seek to love God with all our mind is glorious. If the mind is not engaging in loving God but seeking to be filled with “truth,” then this vast power and reality within is very dangerous to us. So much life and time is wasted in our mind. It is tragic how many hours the average person wastes away in dreaming of things not based in truth.

3. THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OF KNOWING TRUTH AND LOVING GOD

- a. To love God with all our mind involves taking time to fill our mind with God’s Word and to agree with biblical paradigms of God. This involves refusing lies about Jesus and the truth, and refusing to put anything in our minds that diminishes love for Jesus and quenches the Spirit.

2 Cor. 10:5 ⁵ *Casting down arguments [against truth] ... that exalt itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

- b. Agreement with God is the way in which the Spirit awakens love in us. He who knows much about God loves God more and more. Knowing truth and loving God are deeply connected. Love itself is a deep type of knowledge. Loving God is continually refueled by encountering truth over and over. Jesus is the Truth, so meditating on truth is essential to all growth in light and love.
- c. Our thinking is the fuel from which love or anguish arises. Truth stirs powerful emotions of love for God in us by being set aflame by the Holy Spirit. Thinking our thoughts compels us and opens our emotions to supernatural influences, whether of God or of demons.
- d. What we put in our mind and what we do in our actions forms our memory. Both the Holy Spirit and demons use our memory to form our desires and emotional makeup. Both good and evil begin with thoughts. Evil thinking separates us from the Spirit and good thinking unifies us.
- e. When we think on what the Spirit thinks, then love is awakened in us and makes our emotions feel alive with holy desire. The Spirit uses memory to release the sweetness of God in us.

4. THE SECRET PLACE AND THE PRAYER ROOM AS A PLACE OF RENEWING OUR MIND

- a. The best way that we can renew our mind is by filling it with truth. To do that we need to take time to think on the truth. This means reading our bibles in a completely different way than we would any other book.
- b. In our personal times with the Lord and in His Word we can do two things to help that Word establish truth in our minds.
 - i. Meditate on the Word
 - ii. Prayer read the Word
- c. **Meditating on the Word** means chewing over a small section of scripture – probably a verse or a phrase and journaling our thoughts around that passage. We take time to ask questions about the words we are reading, to consider what they mean for our own lives, what they show us about God and to ask God for greater revelation and understanding. By writing down our thoughts we internalise them and begin to imprint them onto our minds.

- d. **Prayer reading the Word** means we pray the words we are reading back to God so the truth becomes part of our dialogue with Him. There are basically two categories of truth within God’s word
 - i. Scriptures that focus on promises **“to believe”** in God’s Word. For example, Scriptures that declare that God loves, forgives, leads, protects, or provides for us, etc.
 - ii. Scriptures that focus on exhorting us **“to obey”** God’s Word. For example, Scriptures that command us to bridle our tongue, serve others and give time and money to God, etc.
- e. As we dialogue with God, through meditation and prayer reading, the truth in the scriptures becomes part of our thought life. Gradually we find ourselves thinking like He does which in turn means we find ourselves loving Him with our mind. We begin to consider events and situations from His perspective rather than the fleshly or worldly view.
- f. This approach to scripture is at the heart of the prayer room. As we sing and pray around scriptures so we are vocalising truth. This is how we grow in faith because:

Romans 10:17 ¹⁷ *So faith comes from **hearing**, and hearing through **the word of Christ**.*

- g. For example, during this season one of the key scripture passages we have been singing and praying is Psalm 91. As we sang and began to dialogue with God (pray) around v.4 “my mind” remembered another verse that is familiar to many of us.

Psalm 91:4 *He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; **his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.***

Eph. 6:16 ¹⁶ *In all circumstances take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;*

- h. As we sang and prayed so these two verses came together in my mind and I began to speak out, *“We trust in your faithfulness, we raise our shield of faith, your gift of faith is our shield”*. That little revelation which touched my heart and I then vocalised so my mind could hear it, has become a truth that I am now trusting in. It has become my thoughts not just words on a page.
- i. It seems to me, that as we sing and pray scripture so we go on a journey with God and he establishes the ancient paths as the thought patterns in our mind.
- j. We all know that anything we have learnt to recite or sing gets established in our minds much more than if we just read it. Nursery rhymes, pop songs, traditional prayers – they are all very quickly recalled because we have vocalised them. The same is true for God’s word.
- k. If we want to renew our mind and think like Him then the best thing we can do is:
 - i. Read it
 - ii. Write it
 - iii. Say it
 - iv. Sing it
 - v. Pray it

Rom.12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed **by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (think like Him).

Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

- l. He prospers because he is loving the Lord his God will his mind. He is thinking like God therefore he walks in his ways and therefore he prospers and is blessed.
- m. Next week we will look at how this applies to choosing to forget or remember – how we should view our past and our future.

Phil. 4:8⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things.**