

Deuteronomy Chapter 30:16

V: 2 Repent & obey with all your heart and soul.

V: 6 God will work in us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.”

V: 10 Hearken unto the Lord, keep His commandments, and turn to God “with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.”

Shammah

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “⁴Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord: ⁵And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

V: 16 “In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments...”

- How do you suppose He wants us to do that?

Lackadaisically? Casually? Not just if there's nothing else scheduled?

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “⁴Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord: ⁵And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

- Passionately, enthusiastically, intelligently, reverently, and continually.
- We're told to love God with all our heart (innermost being, our spirit), all our soul (consciousness), and all our might / strength (body – physically, practically)
- Jesus reiterates this command when asked what the greatest commandment was:

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.”

- Christianity is not a religion of convenience.

Jesus tells us:

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- This means that God, His kingdom, His righteousness are to be our first priority in life.
- This, meaning our love for God is to our “prime directive” – the one principal that drives us.

V: 16 Here we have this “command” to love God, which is to exercise our will, yield our will to the desires of God, which are always good.

Psalm 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

- The cool part is that as we delight ourselves in the lord, more and more He becomes the desire of our heart!
- This is not a “suggestion” – this is a command, and those that fear the Lord know what this means.
- We can choose to love just as easily as we can choose to do anything else.
- We usually define love as a wonderful feeling, a deep and pleasant emotion which is why for the most part we “love” conditionally – usually if you love me back.
- The Bible doesn’t view love the same way.
- According to scripture love is an act of the will – which is why God “commands” us to love Him.
- We can choose to love God, or not.
- God gives us plenty of good reasons to love Him. In fact our love for Him is simply a response to His love for us, thus it is only reasonable.

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

Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 John 4:19 “We love Him, because He first loved us.”

- Our love for God is simply the proper response to the love that He initiated toward us.
- Love is simply a choice we make; in other words sometimes choose to love, then the feeling will follow – which is why God is “commanding” His children to love Him.
- Our love for God is not based on “feelings” it is based on “obedience” to His word.
- As an act of the will we choose to relate to God and to other persons in a loving way no matter how we may feel at the moment.

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

- Christian love means that we treat others the same way that God treats us.
- His love is kind and His love is forgiving so we try to be kind and forgiving towards others.

Ephesians 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

John 13:35 “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

- Love isn’t just a warm fuzzy emotion; love is a commitment that leads to action.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world.... that He gave His only begotten Son...that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

V: 16b “... that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee...”

- Loving God and being obedient to His word is life to us; and it is the way to blessing.

Psalms 1:1-3 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doeth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

- When it comes down to it, how are we going to express our love to God?
- Praising Him, and thanking Him for the great things He has done is a good start.

Psalms 103:1 “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.”

- The most direct way to express our love to God is through our obedience to His word and to His Son.

John 14:21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”

- Jesus came with a message: That the work of God was to be pleasing to God.

John 6:29 “This is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom He hath sent.”

- We are to believe His message, His warning, and His promises.
- Ultimately, obedience to God’s word leads us to salvation.

Psalm 116: 12-13 ¹²“What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.”

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- Because we’re made in the image of God we have minds to think with, we have hearts to feel with, and a will to decide with.
 - God calls us to make right decisions, we’re not robots; we can hear God’s voice, we can hear God’s word, and learn His will.
 - We just have to decide whether to obey or dis-obey.
 - Moses has made it clear that making this decision isn’t a difficult task, it’s simply a choice.
 - We’ve been given the revealed truth of God in His word – and His word has been made readily available to us.
 - Paul captures the sentiments of this chapter when he quotes it:

Romans 10:6 ⁶“... who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷Or, who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead) ⁸But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; ⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

- Choosing to believe is no different than choosing to love.