

## With All Your Heart

Deut. 6: 4-5 Hear, O Israel: The Lord of God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Matthew 22: 35-38 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.

Jer. 29: 12-13 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

There is something about loving God and seeking God with all of our hearts that gets God's attention and brings God's blessing. If we can better understand this and do it, we should experience a greater level of God's presence and power our lives and situations than we may experience now.

Are there prayers that don't matter? Not because they are not God's will but because they don't reach Him. Is it possible many of our prayers don't move God because they don't move us? Is there a way to pray with prayers that matter on a regular basis?

Scripture teaches us that it is possible. The way to move God's heart is with prayer that moves our hearts. There is a connection between us giving our whole hearts to Him and Him responding to us.

We know that in a crisis we have the ability to unclutter our focus and pray with desperation, even to adjust our schedules to prioritize the present need. What if we could learn to maintain this level of focus and desperation in prayer all the time? Is it possible? What would be the result? How would our lives change? How would our spiritual lives change?

To live a life filled with God's involvement and intervention, there are conditions we must meet. There are changes we must make. We must get our hearts involved in a more complete way.

## 1. Seeking His Face

Ps. 119: 2-3 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.

Ps. 119: 10-11 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

a. Seeking His face with our whole hearts means confessing and repenting of sin. If we have iniquity in our hearts the Lord will not hear us (Ps. 66:18). We must have a clean and repentant heart.

b. It also means to unclutter our hearts with other things. When we are bogged down with other cares and worries it leads to a divided heart.

Ps. 86:11 ...give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

A divided heart is one that claims loyalty to one person or thing but pursues another. No man can serve two masters.

c. Finally, seeking Him with a whole heart requires us seeking Him in faith. Heb. 11: 6 tells us we need faith to please Him, and we must know He will answer if we diligently seek Him. This cannot be just wishful thinking. It must be a confidence in His promises.

## 2. Keeping His Word

John 14: 21 He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

The Lord is very clear about this. We cannot claim to love Him if we are not living an obedient life. It does not mean perfection. It means pursuit. We must seek Him in His word and seek to obey what He says.

v. 23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Loving Him with our whole hearts requires us learning His word, loving it, and living it. There will always be other interests that vie for our attention and pursuit. But if we seek Him first and most, He will abide with us, manifest Himself to us, and deliver us in time of trouble.

Ps. 91:15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

## 3. Praising His Name

Ps. 9:1 I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

v. 11 Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.

Ps. 111:1 Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

When we praise Him with your whole hearts we show how important He is to us. Important enough to make Him known and give him glory. People often have other things they value more than God. This is why the

redeemed of the Lord must say so. Praising Him with our whole heart includes telling people what He's done for us and praising Him among His people.

In summary, remember Col. 3:23-24:

And whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Whether it be seeking Him, keeping His word or praising His name, let it be with all of our hearts, with a faith that knows God will reward us.