

**16th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 9, 2018**  
**“Life Principles For Living Out the Greatest Commandment:**  
**Loving God With All Our Strength”**  
**Ephesians 3:14-21**

Jesus calls us to love God with \_\_\_\_\_ that we are—heart, soul, mind, and strength—these 4 words encompass our entire \_\_\_\_\_.

This involves \_\_\_\_\_ God every part of our lives. There’s no room here for \_\_\_\_\_ affection or allegiance when it comes to God.

We’re called to love God with all that we are—they’re all \_\_\_\_\_ important. It’s not a matter of \_\_\_\_\_ them, but rather \_\_\_\_\_ all four.

*Me’od* (Hebrew) = strength or might = adverb:

*Ischys* (Greek) =  
*Mammon* (Aramaic) =

The strength of a person isn’t simply in \_\_\_\_\_ he or she is, but what they have at their \_\_\_\_\_. The call to love God with all; our strength/might/power isn’t only about our \_\_\_\_\_ muscle and the things we do, but also about everything we have at our disposal for \_\_\_\_\_ God. This includes:

**3 PRINCIPLES FOR LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH**

**#1. God can do \_\_\_\_\_ through us.**

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” (John 14:12)

**3 REASONS WHY CAN WE TRUST JESUS’ WORDS**

- **God’s resources are \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Out of His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit.” (Ephesians 3:16)

“Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven

and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things.” (Malachi 3:10)

- **God’s ability is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that’s at work within us....” (Eph 3:20)

- **God’s power is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“That power is like the working of His mighty strength which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.” (Ephesians 3:19-20)

“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.” (Mark 10:27)

**Do you believe that everything is possible for God?**

**#2. We can’t do anything without Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

**TWO COMMON ERRORS**

- **“I work for Jesus using my own \_\_\_\_\_.”**  
“I can do all things through Christ **who gives me strength.**” (Phil 4:13)
- **“Jesus does it all and I do \_\_\_\_\_.”**  
“I work hard and struggle to do this while his mighty power works in me.” (Colossians 1:29)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit...Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” (John 15:1-4)

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 5:5)

“My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (Psalm 73:26)

“Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord’s mighty power within you.” (Ephesians 6:10)

**Where does your strength come from?**

**How connected are you to Jesus?**

**#3. My weakness becomes God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

weakness =

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

Praus = meek = is \_\_\_\_\_ to translate, and means far more than just the English:

Biblical meekness isn’t \_\_\_\_\_, as the world understands it, but rather refers to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s strength under His \_\_\_\_\_.

Demonstrating \_\_\_\_\_ without undue \_\_\_\_\_. The English word lacks this blend of:

### WHY DOES JESUS SAY THIS ABOUT THE MEEK?

- **Because Jesus knows that our \_\_\_\_\_ pulls us away from God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things...” (Jer 9:23-24)

- **Because Jesus knows that our \_\_\_\_\_ draws us towards God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

“I prayed to God to deliver me. I asked Him three times. But He didn’t deliver me. And God came to me and said, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

- **Because Jesus knows that our \_\_\_\_\_ reveals God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

“We have this treasure in clay jars.” (2 Corinthians 4:7)  
treasure =  
clay jars =

“To the faithful, you show yourself faithful.” (Psalm 18:25)

**Do you focus more on your strengths or weaknesses?**

**How have you allowed God to transform your weaknesses into strength? How is God strong in and through you?**

“The Lord Almighty is my strength. He makes my feet like those of a deer. He makes me walk on the mountains.” (Habakkuk 3:19)



How are you practically living this part of the Great Commandment out in your everyday life?

Do you love God with all your mind?

Which one of these 3 principles might you need to work on?

This week I encourage you to increase your love for God by following Paul’s advice in Ephesians 3.

Pick one of the 3 principles from your sheet to focus on and pray that God will give you everything you need to follow through. Pray:

“This week Lord, I’m going to believe that you can do anything through me. I’m going to draw on your unlimited resources; I’m going to depend on your immeasurable power; I’m going to look for signs of resurrection in my life.”

“This week, I’m going to stay connected to you—and through prayer and the study of Scripture—draw my nourishment and strength from you.”

“This week, I’m not going to allow my strengths to pull me away from you. Instead, I’m going to try to come to you weakness, and let you turn those weaknesses—those things I regret or would much rather avoid—into strengths.”

### NOTES: