

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 3, 2025**  
**“Living the Great Commandment ~ With All Our Heart”**  
**Mark 12:28-34**

“The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:29-31)

As Christians living in the world—a world that’s very different than God’s Kingdom, and in many cases, opposed to it—we can \_\_\_\_\_ our lives.

Sometimes referred to as the “4-fold all,” there’s no room here for \_\_\_\_\_ affection or allegiance when it comes to God. He wants all that we are.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate one and love the other, or you will be devoted to one and despise the others. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)

The God of the universe, the One who created all that there is, alone stands supremely powerful, supremely holy, supremely valuable. He alone demands supreme and total \_\_\_\_\_—a loyalty that starts with the \_\_\_\_\_.

When we truly love God with all that we are, and when we seek to love our neighbour as ourselves, we \_\_\_\_\_ all the commandments—everything that God calls us to do.

If we don’t love God with all that we are—heart, soul, mind, and strength; if we don’t seek to love our neighbour as ourselves, everything we do—our worship and praise, our Bible study, our good works—is \_\_\_\_\_—it’s nothing but \_\_\_\_\_!

“These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. In vain do they worship me.” (Mark 7:6)

The kind of love described in the Great Commandment is an \_\_\_\_\_ love; a love that love occupies much of our waking thoughts, impacts our \_\_\_\_\_ and decisions, and causes us to make lavish \_\_\_\_\_. And, according to Scripture, this kind of all-out-love is reserved for \_\_\_\_\_.

**4 PRINCIPLES FOR LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART**

**#1. Loving God with all our heart means \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.**  
“To the Lord I cry aloud and He answers me from His holy hill.” (Ps 3:4)

Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_, wherein we humbly communicate, worship, and sincerely seek God’s face, trusting that He hears us, loves us, and will \_\_\_\_\_—though not always in the manner and timing that we might want.

David was incredibly \_\_\_\_\_ in his prayers, and had the ability to tell God what was really going on in his heart. David never held anything back! And because of that, God was able to immediately \_\_\_\_\_ his heart.

**THINGS DAVID TALKED ABOUT TO GOD**

• **Talk to God about your \_\_\_\_\_.**

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.” (Psalm 22:1-2)

• **Talk to God about your \_\_\_\_\_.**

“I am poor and weak and yet the Lord is thinking about me right now! O my God, You are my helper. You are my Saviour; come quickly, and save me. Don’t delay!” (Psalm 40:17)

• **Talk to God about His \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Grasshopper Syndrome =**

“The voice of the Lord spins and topples the mighty oaks. It strips the forests bare. They whirl and sway beneath the blast. But in His temple all are praising, ‘Glory, glory to the Lord.’” (Psalm 29:9)

• **Talk to God about your \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Look at how many enemies I have. See how much they hate me. Protect and save me. I trust You. Don’t let me be disgraced.” (Psalm 25:20)

• **Talk to God about your \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit with in me. A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not ignore.” (Psalm 51:10)

• **Talk to God about your \_\_\_\_\_.**

“I cry aloud to the Lord. I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out my complaints before Him. I tell my troubles.” (Psalm 142:1)

**How often do you talk to God? Do you share your thoughts and feelings with Him?**

**#2. Loving God with all our heart means \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves through His eyes.**

“I praise you because I’m fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14)

God made us, \_\_\_\_\_ us, shaped us, put us together, and planned every day of our lives long before we were \_\_\_\_\_.

We are God’s \_\_\_\_\_—His best work—and as such, we’re of infinite \_\_\_\_\_ and worth. Our value and worth is proclaimed loud and clear at the \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus loved us enough to \_\_\_\_\_ for us. Our value and worth isn’t based on what we do or don’t do, but solely on the fact that we \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

When we \_\_\_\_\_ this, when this truth permeates our very being, we can begin to love God with all our heart. Why? Because we can’t give what we don’t—it’s that simple. We can’t love God with all our heart, until we know and \_\_\_\_\_ His love for us.

“And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” (Ephesians 3:18-19)

**Do you see yourself for who you truly are? Do you see yourself through God’s eyes?**

**#3. Loving God with all our heart means living with \_\_\_\_\_. integrity = *integer* =**

It means being \_\_\_\_\_, walking the walk and not just talking the talk. Having integrity means I’m the same person no matter where I am or who I’m with.

“I want to understand the path to integrity. When will you come to me? I will live in my own home with integrity. I will not put anything wicked in front of my eyes. I hate what unfaithful people do. I want no part of it.” (Psalm 101:2-3)

Living with integrity, especially when we’re behind closed doors, is crucial because it actually \_\_\_\_\_ our love for God.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:14)

A lack of integrity doesn’t keep God from loving us. He loves us no matter what! However, it does keep us from fully experiencing that love because it creates a \_\_\_\_\_ between us and God and keeps us from loving Him as we should.

**Do you seek to live with integrity?**

**#4. Loving God means seeking God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!” (Psalm 143:10)

“I am sick at heart. How long, O Lord, until you restore me?” (Psalm 6:3)

We don’t have all the \_\_\_\_\_, and much of what happens in life is beyond our limited understanding and \_\_\_\_\_. Seeking God’s will and asking questions like David does here reveals our \_\_\_\_\_ on Him

God’s will is \_\_\_\_\_—He knows what’s best for us and wants to give it to us, if we ask. And there’s no better, \_\_\_\_\_, more fulfilling place for us to be than in the centre of God’s perfect will

**QUESTIONS TO ASK GOD**

- **Ask God \_\_\_\_\_?** ~ When will it happen? When will I change? When will this dream become reality? When will I get this bad habit under control?
- **Ask God \_\_\_\_\_?** ~ How do you want me to relate to this person who is so difficult? How should I behave in this situation?
- **Ask God \_\_\_\_\_?** ~ Why did this suffering come into my life? Why do you seem silent?

Just because we ask doesn’t mean we’re going to get the answer we’re looking for. An important part of being within God’s will and purpose is \_\_\_\_\_ that fact and trusting in Him, whether we understand or not. In fact, being within God’s will is all about faith and trust, not understanding.

**How often do you seek God’s will?**

**Is there something that you have wanted to ask Him, but haven’t? Are you willing to trust Him even if you don’t get the answer you’re looking for?**