

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 10, 2025
“Living the Great Commandment ~ With All Our Soul”
Galatians 5:16-26

Soul = (OT) *nephesh* =

That’s why we have a soul—we have an awareness that nothing else in creation has because we are created in the _____ of God and He, Himself breathed _____ into us.

Soul = (NT) *psuche* =

It’s the seat of:

Soul =

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other...” (Galatians 5:16-17)

We’re constantly doing _____ within ourselves between what our soul—or _____ wants—and what our _____—that divine spark within us—wants.

The way out = we need to let the _____ guide our lives; we need to _____ our souls—our desires and passions—to God and not give into to every fleshy desire we have; we need to seek the things of the _____ instead of the things of the _____.

We need to _____ with Spirit and allow God to develop and grow in us the _____ instead of the works of the _____.

4 PRINCIPLES FOR LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR SOUL

#1. Loving God with all our soul means _____.

“From there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find him if you search for him with all your heart and soul.” (Deuteronomy 4:29)

“As the dear pants for streams of water so my soul pants for You, O God.” (Psalm 42:1)

“O God, you are my God. Earnestly I seek you. My soul thirsts for you. My body longs for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water.” (Psalm 63:2)

2 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

• **What am I thirsty for?**

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

• **How am I satisfying this thirst? What am I drinking?**

“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” (John 4:13-14)

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” (John 7:37)

“I want more than anything to be in the courtyards of the Lord’s temple. My whole being wants to be with the living God.” (Psalm 84:2)

Does your whole being want to be with God? Do you seek Him passionately?

#2. Loving God with all our soul means _____.

"I love the Lord." (Psalm 116:1)

"You alone created my inner being. You knitted me together inside my mother. I will give thanks to you because I have been so amazingly and wonderfully made. Your works are miraculous, and my soul is fully aware of this." (Psalm 139:13)

How do you express your own unique identity as you seek to love God?

#3. Loving God will with all our soul means _____.

"Show me the way I should go for to you I lift up my soul." (Psalm 143:8)

"If people want to follow me they must give up the things that they want. They must be willing to give up their lives daily to follow Me." (Lke 9:23)

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." (Luke 9:24)

"So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him." (Matthew 7:11)

Are you willing to lose your life? Are you willing to surrender your needs and wants to God? How persistently do you follow Him?

#4. Loving God with all our soul means _____.

"Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person." (Genesis 2:7)

"...Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! 'Peace be with you,' he said...Then he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:19ff)

"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Ephesians 5:18)

Whose power do you depend on—God's or your own? How filled are you with God's Spirit?

Homework

- How are you practically living this part of the Great Commandment out in your everyday life?
- Do you love God with all your soul?
- Which one of these 4 principles might you need to work on?

This week I encourage you to increase your love for God by following Paul's advice in Galatians 5 to keep in step with, and by guided by, the Holy Spirit.

Pick one of the 4 principles on your sheet to focus on and pray that God will give th everything you need to follow through.

Pray; "This week, Lord, I'm going to seek you passionately—I'm going to try to satisfy my deepest desires—my inner thirst—not with the things of this world, but with you. I'm going to drink of your living water."

"I'm going to be true to who you created me to be, and I'm going to try love you with my unique personality; gifts, talents and abilities."

"I'm going to be persistent in following you—I'm going to lay my needs and wants before you and trust that you'll provide.

"This week I'm going to open myself more to your Holy Spirit and allow you to fill me with your power and strength, so that I depend more on you and less on myself."