

LOVING GOD WITH ALL OF YOUR MIND

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:28-31 (NIV)

❖ Loving God with Your MIND.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

1. In our natural, sinful condition our mind chooses SELF over GOD.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

Romans 1:28 (NIV)

2. The mind under the curse of SIN is death, the mind freed from sin is LIFE.

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Romans 8:5-7

3. The way to loving God with all your mind is to daily RENEW your MIND.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

❖ Loving God with your MIND relates to DISCIPLESHIP.

This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection.

Ephesians 4:13 (NCV)

1. God's PURPOSE for us is to become more like JESUS, His perfect Son.

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29

2. God's PLAN for us is to GROW UP to maturity that others can see Christ in us. *God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do."*

Ephesians 4:15 (MSG)

3. God's PROCESS to help us grow up includes our CIRCUMSTANCES.
"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

❖ Practical Ways to Love God with your Mind

1. Loving God with your REASON: Thinking logically and considering God's Power. *"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;"*

Isaiah 1:18 (NIV)

2. Loving God with your KNOWLEDGE: Studying and applying God's Word. *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

3. Loving God with your MEMORY: Remembering and memorizing God's Truth. *I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.*

Psalms 77:11 (NIV)

4. Loving God with your IMAGINATION: Dreaming big dreams for God's Glory. *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)