

we truly loved God with everything we are?

Deut 6:5

Matt 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul
(and with all your mind) and with all your strength

Loving someone can, generally, seem like a very natural thing. But how often do we take a step back to consider what it really means? God commands us to love Him which tells us that love is not just an emotional response: it's also a choice that we make daily and is something that, through Christ, we can do to the measure that God has made us able to.

What Does “all your heart, soul, mind and strength” Mean?

Hebrew (Deut 6:5)

Heart / *Lebab* / Inner man, mind, will, understanding.

Soul / *Nepes* / Activity of mind, will or character, living being, substance, inner being, seat of appetites, emotions and passions.

Strength / *Mod* / Force, might.

Greek (Matt 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27)

Heart / *Kardia* / The centre of all physical and spiritual life.

Soul / *Psyche* / The seat of feelings, desires, affections and aversions.

Mind / *Dianola* / The faculty of understanding, feeling, desiring.

Strength / *Ichsys* / To the extent of one's ability.

God wants us to love Him from the very core of our being, with everything we have. He wants our love for Him to direct our feelings, desires, affections (and aversions). He also wants this to be driven by our conscious understanding not just our emotion, and for us to do this to the extent that we are able.

How Do We Love God?

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

We love God through our actions and attitudes towards both Him and those around us.

We show our love for God through: obedience to Him (John 14:15-24), Putting Him first (Matt 6:24, 1 John 2:15-17), loving others (1 John 4:20-21), focusing on what is good (Romans 12:9), spending time in His presence (1 Corinthians 8:3) and worshipping Him (Psalms)

We can learn a lot through the example of David, who was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). He had a singular passion for God (Psa 42:1-2). He didn't always get things right but, when he didn't, he turned to God (Psa 73:26).

This Month's Challenge... Put some time aside to reflect on the different ways that you can demonstrate your love for God. Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage you in each area so that you would grow deeper in your love for, and relationship with, God.

At the end of the month, reflect on what difference this has made to your daily walk with God.