

# BECOMING THE ME GOD WANTS ME TO BE

## Greater Reward: Part 1

May 30, 2021 | Pastor Brian

Matthew 22:35–40 (NLT)

<sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “ ‘You must **love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.**’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

### Points to Ponder:

1. Loving God means honoring Him with **ALL OF MY BEING.**

*“May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and **may your whole spirit and soul and body** be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23, NLT)*

2. Loving God is about **DEVOTION** not **EMOTION.**

*“The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are **fully committed** to him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9a, NLT)*

### WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE LASTING CHANGES?

1. **EXAMINATION:** WHAT NEEDS WORK?

*“Instead, let us **test** and examine our ways. Let us **turn** back to the LORD.” (Lamentations 3:40, NLT)*

*“...I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. **Be honest** in your evaluation of yourselves...” (Romans 12:3, NLT)*

*“**Search me, O God.** and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you...” (Psalm 139:23–24, NLT)*

2. **MEDITATION:** DISCOVER THE PATTERNS THAT PLAGUE ME.

*“**I pondered the direction of my life,** and I turned to follow your laws.” (Psalm 119:59, NLT)*

*Where do my bad habits come from?*

- My **PARENTS.**

- My PAST.
- My PERSONAL CHOICES.

### 3. EDUCATION: GET SOME KNOWLEDGE.

*“Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life—guard it well.” (Proverbs 4:13, GNB)*

*“The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them.” (Proverbs 18:15, The Living Bible)*

### 4. MOBILIZATION: MAKE A PLAN.

*“Without good advice everything goes wrong— it takes careful planning for things to go right.” (Proverbs 15:22, CEV)*

*“Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.” (Proverbs 16:3, NLT)*

### 5. MOTIVATION: GET ACCOUNTABILITY.

*“Afterwards the LORD asked Cain, “Where is Abel?” “How should I know?” he answered. “Am I supposed to look after my brother?”” (Genesis 4:9, CEV)*

#### **4 Tools God Uses to Make Me More Like Jesus**

- PRINCIPLES (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- PASTORS (Ephesians 4:10-12)
- PROBLEMS (Romans 8:28)
- PEOPLE (Romans 1:12)

*“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24–25, NLT)*

### 6. EVALUATION: MEASURE PROGRESS.

*“Spiritual people evaluate everything but are subject to no one’s evaluation.” (1 Corinthians 2:15, GW)*

*“...We are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.” (2 Corinthians 3:18, The Message)*

## **ACTION STEP**

**Take the Online Health Assessment.**

*“Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.” (3 John 2, NLT)*

