

Session 4 Loving God with All of Our Mind: A Glorious Potential

I. BE TRANSFORMED BY RENEWING OUR MIND

- A. The Lord created and called us to love Him in four spheres of our life—our heart, soul, mind, and strength—because He loves us in this way. It is both our debt and gift to love God in these ways.
³⁰“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mk. 12:30)
- B. We express love for God with our mind by putting things in our mind that inspire and enlarge our capacity to love Him and by resisting things that diminish our capacity to love Him. What we do with our mind greatly affects our ability to receive and express His love.
- C. As we change our mind, the Spirit changes our emotions, enabling us to love more. What we put in our mind determines much of how we feel, how we see ourselves, how we love, what we do, etc.
²“...but be transformed [emotionally] by the renewing of your mind.” (Rom. 12:2)
- D. God designed our human make up so that we are able to “set our mind” on the things we choose.
⁵Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit... (Rom. 8:5)
²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (Col. 3:2)
- E. The Lord encouraged Joshua to engage his mind in long and loving meditation on God’s Word. God’s Word equips us to think rightly about God, ourselves, others, the future, and more.
⁸...you shall meditate in it [God’s Word] day and night, that you may...do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous...[and] have good success. (Josh. 1:8)
- F. Knowing and loving are deeply connected. We grow in love for God by growing our knowledge of God and agreement with Him. Agreement is the essence of love and/or union. Knowing is both informational and experiential. Thus, there is a mental aspect and an emotional aspect.
⁹“...I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge [of God]...” (Phil. 1:9)
- G. Loving God with our mind includes meditation on the Word so that we may come into agreement more and more with who He is and how He views and leads us. When we think on what the Spirit thinks, then love is awakened in us and makes our emotions feel alive with holy desire.
1. This includes refusing lies about Jesus as our Bridegroom, King, and Judge.
 2. This includes resisting wrong thinking that promotes shame, bitterness, lust, ingratitude, etc.
- H. We express love for God by refusing to feed our mind on lust (Job 31:1). The end-time explosion of pornography is the enemy’s direct attack against the first commandment.

***1**“I have made a covenant with my eyes; why should I look upon a young woman?” (Job 31:1)*

II. THE VASTNESS OF THE HUMAN MIND: A GLORIOUS POTENTIAL

- A. Our mind includes our intellect, perception, memory, imagination, even our daydreams, etc.
- B. Much of our life occurs in our mind, and only a small part of our life is actually expressed in actions. The lyrics of Misty Edwards’ song says it well: “Much of life takes place behind the face.”
- C. The language of our spirit is images. It is impossible to think without seeing pictures in our mind. It is our “internal movie screen” that continually presents us with pictures. We are the producer, main actor, hero, villain, and audience of our “internal movies.” Our mind is like a camera that stores our memories. Our mind is a vast reservoir of memories, pictures, ideas, etc. We can never turn our mind off. When our body sleeps, our mind stays active, dreaming through the night.
- D. Humans are constantly in a conversation in their minds. The Lord created us this way for ceaseless dialogue with Him. God designed us with a memory by which we interact with Him and others in this life and in a far deeper way throughout eternity.
- E. We cannot stop the ceaseless flow of images that run across our mind, but we can direct them. Through meditation on God’s Word, we can rewrite “the script of the movie” that we continually watch within. We can replace our wrong thoughts and pictures with godly thoughts and pictures.
- F. God created us after His image (Gen. 1:26). One aspect of this is seen in the vastness of the human mind which will continue to “store” knowledge for all eternity. Our mind is like a mysterious internal universe with a memory more powerful than a computer, with trillions of gigabytes.
- G. The Spirit will enable us to love God with all our mind by writing His Word on our mind.
***16**“This is the covenant...I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them” (Heb. 10:16)*
- H. As our mind is renewed, the Spirit imparts life and peace in us (Rom. 8:6). This peace is the result of embracing a right view of God, and His narrative for our life (Ps. 27:4; Rom. 8:28). In this way, Jesus can become our first thought—our “holy daydream” or “resting place”—He becomes our “sweet place of escape” from fear, shame, anger, and lust as we retreat into His beauty and love.
***6**For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Rom. 8:6)*
- I. If our mind does not actively engage in being renewed by God’s Word, then the vast power of our mind is dangerous to us. So much life and time can be wasted in our mind. It is tragic how many hours some waste away by daydreaming about things that are not based in truth.
***17**You should no longer walk as... the Gentiles [unbelievers] walk, in the futility of their mind,
18having their understanding darkened...²³**Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.** (Eph. 4:17-23)*

- J. We are called to seek greater understanding of God even as one who seeks for hidden treasure. May the Spirit give you confidence that *will* find more of the knowledge of God as you are diligent.

²Apply your heart to understanding...⁴if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵then you will...find the knowledge of God. (Prov. 2:2-5)