

Aug. 5, 2018
Experiencing God Wholeheartedly

I. We are called to wholehearted devotion. *Deuteronomy 6:5 NLT And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*

Matthew 22:37 (NIV) Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

II. Why does God call us to Wholehearted devotion?

A. In order to experience him on a deeper level. *Deuteronomy 4:29 NASB "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.*

B. In order to please him. *1 Thessalonians 2:4 NLT Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.*

C. In order to make a difference. *1 Kings 2:4 NASB So that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'*

D. In order to be more satisfied ourselves. *Deuteronomy 10:13 NLT And you must always obey the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.*

III. How we get a wholehearted devotion.

A. Ask God to examine you. *Psalms 26:2 NIV Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;*

B. Examine yourself. *1 Corinthians 11:28 (NLT) That is why you should examine yourself.*

WHERE DO I SPEND MY TIME?
WHAT DO I TALK MOST ABOUT?
WHAT AM I MOST COMMITTED TO?
WHAT DO I GO TO BED THINKING ABOUT?
WHAT DO I WAKE UP THINKING ABOUT?
WHERE DO I SPEND MY MONEY?

C. Think of all God has done for you. *Psalms 126:3 NIV The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.*

D. Realize what you are missing. *Hosea 7:8 NLT "The people of Israel mingle with godless foreigners, making themselves as worthless as a half-baked cake!*

E. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a whole heart. *Ezra 1:1 NIV "...the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation ... vs. 5 everyone whose heart God had moved.*

F. Respond. *2 Chronicles 34:31-32 NIV The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book. Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors.*

OUR PLEDGE

Lord, today we pledge ourselves to follow you and keep your commands with all of our hearts and souls. We commit to being wholehearted in our love for you. By the power of the Holy Spirit we will follow you and love you with everything that is within us. In Jesus Name.