



## **"Love the Lord Your God with All Your STRENGTH!"**

### **LOVE SERIES (Part 5)**

Text: Matthew 22:37-40 – Thus far we have learned to:

- Love God with all our HEART! – Meaning, God is our FIRST LOVE!
- Love God with all our SOUL! – We are to WORSHIP HIM!
- Love God with all our MIND! – That is to LEARN and OBEY His WORD!

- We are also told in Mark 12:28-34 to love God with all our STRENGTH, let's read, *Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"*

*Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."*

> What does it mean to love God with "ALL OUR STRENGTH" - The word "STRENGTH" and its derivatives are found 360 times in the Bible. The Greek word for "strength" in Mark 12:30, 33 is *ischuos*, speaking of one's strength, to the extent of one's ability; with "all" (Greek – *holees*) added, with "all one's strength and ability."

In Deuteronomy 6:5 we read, *"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 strength".*

This is known as the *Shema*, taken from the first word "hear" in Hebrew. Modern Jews consider the recital of the *Shema* both evening and morning to be one of their most sacred duties.

- One of the most repeated Bible passages is found in Nehemiah 8:10 – *"... the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

> Let's define the word Strength From Webster's Dictionary – (1) The quality or state of being strong; ability to do or to bear; capacity for exertion or endurance, whether physical, intellectual, or moral; force; vigor; power; as, strength of body or

of the arm; *strength* of mind, of memory, or of judgment; (2) Power to resist force; solidity or toughness; (3) Power of resisting attacks; impregnability.

- What is the strength of the human anatomy?

Males and Females have the same amount of muscles, but the distribution of muscle mass between genders can be different due to hormonal differences, genetics, and lifestyle choices. On average, adults have around 650 muscles in their body, which make up approximately 40% of their total body weight. In the average adult male, the body comprises approximately 43 percent muscle and 15 percent fat. In comparison, the average adult female contains 36 percent muscle and 26 percent fat.

> Observe strength without power, and the power of the grace of God! - Judges Ch. 16

> How do Christians receive “STRENGTH” (5 keys):

- Key #1 – Through CHRIST - Matthew 12:24-30 (Luke 11:20)
- Key #2 – Through FAITH – Hebrews 11:30 – 12:2
- Key #3 – Through the WORD OF GOD – 1 John 2:14-17
- Key #4 – Through GOD’S GLORY – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- Key #5 – Through SPIRITUAL WARFARE – Ephesians 6:10-20

- In the book *Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices & Priorities of a Winning Life*, by Tony Dungy with Nathan Whitaker write, “As Christians, we are to be strong in the mighty power of God. This means that our strength is not our own; it is not human or fleshly. Our strength is not of the world, but our strength is found in Christ—in our having a vibrant, dynamic relationship with Him. As Paul tells us in Philippians, “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:13). In other words, there is no other source that gives man the strength to overcome the world with its trials, its temptations, and death.”

> The word “STRENGTH” is found 69 times in the PSALMS, here’s a few for you:

- Ps 18:1-2 - *I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

- Ps 19:14 - *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

- Ps 20:6 - *Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand.*

- Ps 21:1-2 - *The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips.*

- Ps 29:11 - *The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace.*

- Ps 37:39 - *But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.*

- Ps 71:18 - *Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.*

- Ps 96:6-7 - *Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, give to the LORD glory and strength.*

- Ps 105:4 - *Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!*

- Ps 118:14 - *The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation.*

> Make a list of your weaknesses, then ask God to strengthen you!

**GO4GOD!**