

**The Commands of Jesus pt. 19**  
**Loving God With Our Minds Matthew 22:34-40**

By God's design, when steward our minds according to the Word of God, not only do we keep growing in the Lord, but we also walk in overcoming victory. Let's talk about that today.

When asked what the greatest commandment in the Law is, Jesus quoted from the Shema found in Deuteronomy 6:4-6, He said in **Matthew 22:37**, "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**"

I think you would agree that this command is still a command today. Notice how Jesus emphasized loving the Lord our God with every part of who we are, all our heart, all our soul and all our mind. The only way we can do that is by giving every part of who we are to Him.

When it comes to loving God with all of our mind, it is more than having loving thoughts about God, it is also stewarding our thought life in order to maintain our holiness for God's glory.

There is an account in the gospels when Jesus told His disciples in some detail how He was going to be crucified and raise from the dead. Peter didn't like that idea at all so he took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him.

We are told in Mark 8:33, But when Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter saying "Get behind me Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Jesus was saying, "you're thinking the way sinful fallen people think." We can do that.

Have you ever heard the saying, "get your head in the game"? This particular axiom is usually expressed by a coach when his team is messing up on the field because they lost focus.

When it comes to loving God with all our minds by stewarding our thought life for holy living, we too need get our heads in the game! The Bible gives us five ways to do this:

**Prepare To Fight:**

**1 Peter 1:13, Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

I love the way the KJV literally translates the original Greek. It says, "wherefore, gird up the loins of your minds". This metaphor comes from how those in ancient days would cinch up their tunics under their belts in order to take action in a way that is unimpeded.

The idea is to prepare our minds for the daily battle we must first keep our thoughts from flying all over the place where they can distract us or worse trip us up.

**Forsake Old Thinking Patterns:**

**Isaiah 55:7, Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.**

Some of our thoughts have been played so many times in our minds they have become ingrained as thought patterns where, they continue to loop around in our brains.

We are called to forsake them, literally in the Hebrew it is to make them destitute. The best way to do this is to infuse a truth of the Word every time our brain starts to cycle. After a while the brain cycle will change from evil thoughts to Bible based thoughts (see Phil. 4:8-9).

### **Stop Thought Progressions:**

**Romans 13:14, Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.**

Notice here we are to stop a wrong thought from progressing to the fantasizing stage of how that desire could be gratified.

You and I have the God given authority to say “no!” to our imaginations going in the wrong direction. We are given the ability to shut those thoughts down and press the delete button in our minds to keep them from progressing.

### **Take Our Thoughts Captive**

**2 Corinthians 10:5, We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

Notice who is doing the demolishing, who is doing the taking captive and who is making the thoughts obedient to Christ. It is us!

We take the divine weapons that God has given us (see 2 Cor. 10:4) which are the sword of the Spirit; this is the right now Word that He is inspiring us to use (see Eph. 6:17) and the blood of Jesus (see Rev. 12:11) to deal with arguments and pretensions that crops up in our minds.

Then we take that wrong thought captive and expose it to Jesus. There we actively rework and modify the thought to where it is now being obedient to Christ.

### **Keeping Our Minds on God**

**Isaiah 26:3, You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.**

The word for peace in this verse is the classic Hebrew word “Shalom”. Shalom literally means wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, and security.

We are promised in this verse that by always paying attention to God, and always occupying our thoughts with thinking about His love, thinking about His goodness, thinking about His attributes, thinking about His mighty deeds etc. God in turn keeps us in perfect peace i.e. He is ever infusing soundness to our thinking.

Because we want to obey Jesus’ command to love the Lord our God with all our minds, let’s commit ourselves to put these five verses into practice.