

5-Day Devotional: Loving God Fully  
Pastor Jay Hassman  
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### **Day 1: Making God Your First Love**

Reading: Matthew 22:36-38; Exodus 20:3

Devotional: The greatest commandment begins with a call to priority. Jesus doesn't ask us to add God to our list of loves as He calls us to place Him above all else. When God occupies first place in our hearts, everything else finds its proper order. Today, examine what truly holds first place in your life. Is it your career, relationships, comfort, or security? These aren't inherently wrong, but they cannot rival God's position. Loving God first means allowing Him to shape your decisions before consulting your fears or preferences. It means seeking His kingdom before your own comfort. When God is truly first, He doesn't diminish the other loves in your life. He sanctifies them, bringing clarity, purpose, and peace to everything else.

Reflection Question: What competes with God for first place in your heart, and what practical step can you take today to reorder your priorities?

### **Day 2: Loving God With Your Whole Self**

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 42:1-2

Devotional: God doesn't want compartmentalized devotion. It is because He desires all of you. Heart, soul, and mind represent the totality of who you are: your affections, your identity, and your thoughts. Loving God with your heart means He becomes what you treasure most. Loving Him with your soul means your very identity is rooted in belonging to Him, not in your circumstances or achievements. Loving Him with your mind means submitting your thoughts to His truth rather than cultural narratives or personal preferences. This kind of love is integrated, touching every area of life. It's not reserved for Sunday worship but expressed in Monday's decisions, Wednesday's conversations, and Friday's challenges. God isn't interested in religious performance; He wants authentic relationship that engages every dimension of who you are.

Reflection Question: Which part of you; heart, soul, or mind has been least surrendered to God, and how can you offer that area to Him today?

### **Day 3: When Love Becomes Obedience**

Reading: John 14:15-21; 1 John 2:3-6

Devotional: Jesus draws a direct line between love and obedience: "If you love Me, keep My commandments." This isn't legalism; it's the natural expression of genuine love. When we truly love someone, we desire to honor them, not disappoint them. Obedience to God isn't about earning His favor—grace has already secured that. Rather, obedience is evidence that His love has taken root within us. It's the visible fruit of invisible faith. This doesn't mean perfection; it means direction. When we stumble, we repent. When we drift, we return. When Scripture corrects us, we

respond rather than rationalize. Loving obedience transforms duty into delight. What once felt like restriction becomes the pathway to freedom. Today, consider where God is calling you to obey in an area you've been resisting. That place of resistance is often where the deepest transformation awaits.

Reflection Question: In what specific area is God calling you to obedience, and what is holding you back from responding?

#### **Day 4: Love That Flows to Others**

Reading: 1 John 4:7-21; Matthew 22:39

Devotional: You cannot truly love God while refusing to love people. John's words are uncompromising: whoever claims to love God yet hates their brother or sister is a liar. Love for God always, inevitably, flows into love for others. This is how the world knows we belong to Christ. Not by our theological precision, but by our tangible love. Loving others isn't always easy or comfortable. It means extending grace to those who don't deserve it, forgiving when it costs us something, and serving when it's inconvenient. It means choosing kindness over being right, patience over frustration, and generosity over self-protection. The love we've received from God becomes the love we extend to others. We love not because people are easy, but because God first loved us when we were difficult. Today, identify someone in your life who is hard to love, and ask God to fill you with His supernatural love for them.

Reflection Question: Who in your life needs to experience God's love through you, and what practical expression of love can you offer them this week?

#### **Day 5: Transformed Lives, Visible Faith**

Reading: James 2:14-26; Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: Grace doesn't just forgive us. It transforms us. Faith that never moves, never serves, never sacrifices is dead faith. James isn't saying works save us; he's saying living faith always produces visible fruit. When God's love and grace take hold of our lives, transformation is inevitable. Our speech changes. Our priorities shift. Our responses to difficulty mature. Our generosity increases. This transformation isn't instantaneous or perfect, but it is directional and undeniable. The Christian life is not about religious performance but authentic transformation. It's about becoming people whose lives reflect the grace we've received. Today marks not an ending but a continuation of this journey. Love and grace in action means allowing God's work in you to become God's work through you. Your transformed life becomes a testimony, an invitation, and a beacon pointing others toward the One who makes all things new.

Reflection Question: What evidence of transformation can you identify in your life over the past year, and where do you sense God calling you to grow next?