

**Wholly Devoted**  
**GBC Ladies Retreat**  
**May 1-3, 2026**

**FRIDAY EVENING**

**INTRODUCTION**

Theme: Wholly Devoted

***“For the eyes of the LORD roam to and fro over all the earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are fully devoted to Him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9 Berean Standard Bible***

***(other versions – “whose heart is loyal to Him (NKJV),” “whose heart is completely His (NASB).”***

***THE LORD IS LOOKING....SEARCHING...FOR THOSE WHO ARE WHOLLY DEVOTED...***

***SO THAT HE CAN STRONGLY SUPPORT THEM!***

That is something we all would want!

David ~ “Let your hearts therefore be **fully devoted** to the LORD our God” ([1 Kings 8:61](#)).

So, what does it mean to be wholly devoted? That is what we are going to take a deeper look at during this retreat!

**MAIN SCRIPTURE:**

**“Hear, O Israel. The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”**

**Deuteronomy 6:5 (NKJV)**

**Background**

[What Is the Background of Deuteronomy? - Bibles.net](#)

**The First 5 books of our Bible, are also known as:**

**The Pentateuch**

**The Five Books of Moses**

**The Torah**

They are foundational to Christianity, and the book of Deuteronomy is the last one.

“Deuteronomy is largely a sermon, or set of sermons, preached by Moses to all of Israel shortly before his death.” ([Exodus 19–40](#)).

**Now that they are back at the eastern border of the Promised Land, Moses wants to ensure that the people will be obedient this time.**

Important because of Israel’s earlier failure to conquer the land (see [Deuteronomy 1:19–46](#)).

### [Deuteronomy 6 Interlinear Bible](#)

**SOME BACKGROUND WORDS IN THE PHRASE LEADING UP TO OUR VERSE.**

**Word translated: LORD – His Name!**

### **WORD ~ SHEMA**

◀ 8085. shama ▶

Lexical Summary

shama: heard, hear, listen

**NASB: heard, hear, listen, listened, hears, obey, obeyed**

1. to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience, etc

Failure to hear is portrayed not as an audiological defect but as a hardened heart (Jeremiah 6:10). The prophets repeatedly lament, “They have ears but cannot hear” (Psalm 135:17), exposing willful deafness. [Strong's Hebrew: 8085. שמע \(shama\) -- heard, hear, listenzzz](#)

## **Topical Lexicon**

### **Essence of the Term**

שמע (shama) moves beyond the mere physiological act of detecting sound. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures it unites hearing, attentive consideration, and responsive obedience. The word embraces:

- Physical hearing of words, music, or noise.
- Intellectual grasp—“giving ear” with understanding.
- Moral response—submission or obedience to what is heard.
- Divine action—God “hears” prayer, lament, or rebellion and acts accordingly.

שמע (shama) moves beyond the mere physiological act of detecting sound. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures it unites hearing, attentive consideration, and responsive obedience.

## Hearing and Obedience

Because the verb contains the idea of compliance, **translations sometimes render it “obey.”**

## Often spelled Shema

**“The Shema is the centerpiece of the daily morning and evening prayer services.”**

Exodus 19:5

“Now then, if you will indeed **obey** (Shema, Strong's 8085) My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine.”

**Says Shema 2x** (If you will indeed obey) If you really harken

Listening is related to keeping the commandments

Listen & Obey

**In Ancient Hebrew - there is no separate word for obey! (in the same sense as it does in English)**

**The Hebrew word behind the English word “obey” is the verb שמע (Sh.M.A, Strong's #8085).**

We say to our kids, “Did you hear me? (ask them to do something, and they are still sitting there....)

**In Hebrew listening and doing are 2 sides of the same coin.**

When they didn't do both, the prophets would say "They have ears, but they are not listening!"

Could physically hear, but weren't actually listening or they would have done something.

**THIS WORD (Shema) IS TRANSLATED OBEY IN SCRIPTURE!**

**Examples:**

**“Does the Lord have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying (Shema) the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than a sacrifice, and to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. To obey is better than sacrifice.” 1 Sam 15:22**

**True devotion is shown through following His will rather than just performing religious acts!**

**Isaiah 1:19 “If you are willing and obedient (Shema), you shall eat the good of the land.”**

**Jeremiah 7:23 “But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey (Shema) My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.’**

Source: <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Obeying-God>

## **WORD ~ "One"**

### **Echad**

**259. echad ►**

#### **Lexical Summary**

**echad: One, single, first, alone, unity**

**NASB: one, each, first, other, same, another, any**

**Word Origin: [a numeral from H258 (אֶחָד - One)]**

**1. (properly) united, i.e. one**

**2. (as an ordinal) first**

[Strong's Hebrew: 259. אֶחָד \(echad\) -- One, single, first, alone, unity](#)

## **WORD ~ "LOVE"**

**We have lots of ideas of what we think love is like, or what we would like it to be like!**

**Hollywood**

**Hallmark Movies**

**Everyone is longing for Love!**

**Number of love songs have come out over the years has stayed pretty consistent, even with changing generations, cultures, etc.**

**Different words that show different types, different depths/levels of love, affection**

**Hebrew Words for Love -**

**In Hebrew, there are multiple words for love.**

**The word “love” in the Bible is used for more than one Hebrew equivalent**

**Ahava ~ word Hebrew speakers use most often today to say they love someone or something.~**

**Love my husband....Love chocolate**

**~often points to an intense emotional bond, a strong connection.**

**Hessed** ~ steadfast love, mercy, lovingkindness, and goodness.

~points to a loyal type of love, a covenantal love.

**Rachamim** ~ perfect, infinite love, like the one between a parent and a child.

**Dod** ~ frequently in a romantic context, usually translated into “beloved”.

### Examples - Hebrew Words for Love

**Ahava**: (Jeremiah 31:3)

**Hesed**: (Isaiah 54:10)

**Rachamim**: (Hosea 2:23)

**Dod**: (Ezekiel 16:8)

**Every single one of these Hebrew words for love to express God’s love for His people.**

In Deuteronomy 6:5, The word translated “love” in our verse is a form of Ahava

### 157. aheb ►

#### Lexical Summary

aheb: To love

Part of Speech: Verb

KJV: (be-)love(-d, -ly, -r), like, friend

NASB: love, loved, loves, lovers, friends, friend, loving

Word Origin: [a primitive root]

1. to have affection for

Strong's Hebrew: 157. אָהַב (aheb) -- To love

### Slide - New Testament Greek Words for Love

**Eros** is the romantic, passionate love.

**phileo** word for love is friendly, affectionate, and considerate.

**Storge (Stor – gay) in Greek is a familial love**, the natural kind that points to a special bond. one another above yourselves.”

**agape** stands for the highest form of love. It is unconditional, self-sacrificial, patient, kind, and it never fails.

This is the word used in MATTHEW 22:37

(You shall) LOVE the Lord, your God...

## **25. agapaó**

**{chiefly of the heart (wholehearted, unconditional, devoted)}**

### **Hebrew Word for Love: 4 Biblical & Modern Words to Know — FIRM Israel**

**TO understand Love ~**

It doesn't originate with us...something that we deserve or that can be earned.

It originates in God's character. He loves, because He is love.

**Not a duty! Genuine affection**

**We love because He first loved us**

**God showed His love**

**By His actions**

**That He Gave Jn 3:16**

**Love is first and foremost God's choice.**

"Because the **Lord loved you** and kept the oath He swore to your fathers, **He brought you out** with a mighty hand" ([Deuteronomy 7:8](#)).

**GOD'S LOVE IS TIED TO AN ACTION**

**Moses ties Israel's entire relationship with God in love.**

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" ([Deuteronomy 6:5](#)).

**JUST LIKE THE SHEMA – HEARING IS TIED TO AN ACTION—OBEDIENCE~**

**LOVE IS TIED TO AN ACTION**

**How we show our love - OBEDIENCE**

"In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." – **1 John 5:3**

But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him." – **1 John 2:5**

"If you love me, keep my commands." – **John 14:15**

"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." John 14:21 ESV

**The next word we are going to look at is probably the hardest of them all!**

The one we usually struggle the most to apply 😊

### **WORD ~ ALL --- MEANS ALL!**

NASB: all, whole, entire, **completely**, entirely, full

Strong's Hebrew: 3605. כֹּל (kol) -- All, every, whole, entire, total

Wholly Love –

Not just a part

We tend to do that

Partial love

Partial obedience

Partial affection

Tithing Mentality...I'll give you 10%, the rest is mine

**WE ARE TOLD TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL OF OUR HEART.**

### **WORD ~ HEART**

◀ 3824. lebab ▶

lebab: heart, hearts, mind

NASB: heart, hearts, mind, intended, understanding, anger, breasts

### **HEART**

Central Role in Hebrew Thought

**The term denotes the inner core of a person—the seat of thought, will, conscience, and emotion.**

**Not like our modern usage that limits it to feelings, the Old Testament this word describe the totality of the inner life.**

Seat of Thought and Understanding

**The Old Testament ascribes intelligence to the heart:**

“Every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was altogether evil all the time” ([Genesis 6:5](#)).

“I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart.” Psalm 77:6

Israel was commanded, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

**Their obedience was to flow from wholehearted devotion, not just mere rituals (Deuteronomy 10:12-16).**

**The Shema ties it all together to convey the idea of total personal commitment.**

The Lord's omniscient gaze penetrates outward appearances: "The LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

### **NT WORD ~ HEART**

2588. kardia ►

kardia: Heart

**the heart, thoughts, feelings**

its dominant usage is figurative, summarizing the inner life of a person: intellect, emotion, conscience, and will.

Center of Thought and Understanding

"In biblical anthropology the mind is frequently located in the heart. Jesus perceives "evil thoughts in your hearts" (Matthew 9:4)."

Heart and Saving Faith

**"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).**

**The New Testament inherits the Hebrew concept of the heart as the totality of inner life (Deuteronomy 6:5)\**

"Kardia gathers the whole interior life—thinking, feeling, choosing—into a single term that Scripture repeatedly declares must be transformed by grace. God searches it, the gospel renews it, the Spirit indwells it, and the believer is called to guard it until Christ is fully formed within."

Strong's Greek: 2588. καρδία (kardia) – Heart

### **WHOLE HEART**

**Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."**

**"You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with your whole heart."**

Jeremiah 29:13

DO YOU WANT TO FIND HIM? Experience Him daily?

Merriam-Webster defines wholehearted as "completely and sincerely devoted, determined, or enthusiastic" and "free from all reserve or hesitation."<sup>2</sup>

Loving with the WHOLE Heart.



**He is First!**

**Luke 14:16-17** Story of the banquet being ready, but the guests made excuses...the excuses didn't include adultery, stealing, (something we would count as sinful)...but were things that were normal life things...

**Used the phrase: "I will follow, BUT FIRST..."**

**There are so many things clamoring for your time and affection!**

**All other loves pale in comparison**

**"I love you MORE"**

**Psalm 86:11, "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; Give me an undivided heart, that I might fear Your name..."**

The danger lies in a divided heart - one that is divided in its loyalties

**Matthew 6:21-24~ "For where your treasure is, there will your heart also be...No man can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. (NIV)"**

SO, WHEN WE LOVE OTHER THINGS MORE...WE ARE ACTUALLY DESPISING HIM?

## **WORD ~ SOUL**

**5315. nephesh ►**

**nephesh: Soul, life, self, person, heart, creature, mind, living being**

**NASB: soul, life, person, lives, himself, persons, yourselves**

Strong's Hebrew: 5315. נֶפֶשׁ (nephesh) -- Soul, life, self, person, heart, creature, mind, living being

**In Genesis 2:7 , we read, "Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living soul." This passage illustrates the divine origin and eternal nature of the soul.**

**Nephesh can express the full range of inner experience.**

It can be downcast (Psalms 42:5),

thirst for God (Psalms 42:1),

rejoice (Psalms 35:9),

or wait in silence (Psalms 62:1).

**"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name" (Psalms 103:1).**

- Nephesh integrates body and breath as a living being.

[Are You Spiritual or Soulful? | Derek Prince Ministries](#)

**“The Greek of the New Testament has a special adjective, formed directly from the Greek word for soul, psuche, which describes action initiated by the soul. The adjective is psuchikos. The logical way to render this in English would be soulful, but unfortunately such a word does not formally exist in the English language.”**

**“natural, sensual, worldly, unspiritual, worldly-minded, without the spirit, and to follow their natural instinct”**

~these seven different words or phrases all translate one and the same Greek word.

### **Lexicon Heart & Soul**

The combination of heart and soul is often used to describe the totality of a person's devotion to God.

to love God with every aspect of one's being.

*In Hebrew thought a person is looked at as a single entity with no attempt to compartmentalize the person into separate parts which act more or less independently of one another. Therefore, the heart, mind, and soul, while in some ways different, are seen as one.*

[Mind - Holman Bible Dictionary - StudyLight.org](#)

### **WORD ~ KNOW PT 1**

#### **THE SEARCH FOR INTIMACY**

I think what we are really looking for in our search and desire for love is intimacy. ...to be really known...seen...valued

For the one word “love” in English, we have several in Hebrew and Greek.....explain different aspects of what we would refer to as “love”

#### **HEBREW WORD STUDY – TO KNOW – YADA’ יָדָע Yod Daleth Ayin**

[HEBREW WORD STUDY – TO KNOW - Chaim Bentorah](#)

Accessed April 2026

**Psalms 139:23: “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts:**

**“The idea of “knowing” in Ancient Hebrew thought is similar to our understanding of knowing but is more personal and intimate. We may say that we “know” someone but simply mean we “know” of his or her existence, but in Hebrew thought, one can only “know” someone if they have a personal and intimate relationship with them. In Genesis**

18:19 Elohiym says about Abraham, "I know him" meaning he has a very close relationship with Abraham. In Genesis 4:1 it says that Adam "knew Eve his wife" implying a very intimate relationship."

### Strong's: #3045

Friendships we have

New ones ( haven't known very long)

Old ones (known for a long time, and very well)

Will call me and say....i know you get nervous when this is happening....but remember what God told you last year at this time....yada yada

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW** – The rest of the chapter in Deuteronomy

*"Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. **Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up.** Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead, inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" Dt. 6:6*

Deuteronomy 6:12

**"Be careful not to forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

### **ONE OF THE SADDEST VERSES**

**"All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and another generation rose up after them who did not know the LORD, nor even the work which He had done for Israel."**  
**Judges 2:19 NASB**

@1400 BC Moses/Exodus – 1200 BC Judges

### **RAISE AN EBENEZER**

I was challenged a couple of years ago by a local pastor when he spoke on this passage. He talked about the importance in our life of "Raising an Ebenezer," and **he challenged us to be intentional about passing our "faith story" to our children. It helps both them and us, to remember what God has done, and thus to have confidence to face the future.**

**My older kids were asking me to write down the stories...they were forgetting them...and the younger ones didn't really know them.**

It is so easy to forget all that God has done, and I felt that challenge from the Lord to go back and transcribe my journals as best I can and begin to put together the story of what God has done in our lives. As I went through my journals, I found the following entry on November 23, 2008:

*"I can't sleep...it seems like I have all of these thoughts swirling through my head. I feel that I need to write them down...that it is important that we don't forget what the Lord has done for us. It is so easy when you are going through something to so focus on that circumstance that you forget what God has said...and what He has done in the past."*

In 1 Samuel chapter 7, we see that Samuel is calling the people to return to the Lord. He was telling them they needed to repent of their sin, turn from other gods, and serve the Lord only with their whole hearts. As they repented, they began to get victory over their enemies. Soon, the Philistines came against them and they fasted and prayed, crying out to the Lord, and He gave them a great victory that day. Then Samuel took a stone and placed it there (at Mizpah) and called it Ebenezer, saying, "So far the Lord has helped us."

The word Ebenezer means **stone of help**, and Samuel set it up to commemorate God's helping the Israelites and giving them victory over the Philistines. We see that other places in the Scriptures where God commands them to put stones up so that they will remember what He had done in the different places. (1)

**"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits." (Ps. 103:2, NASB)**

**Every year, we pray and ask what the theme for retreat should be.**

This year, I was going back and forth between "Delighted," and "Devoted," or "Wholly Devoted."

I felt like they were connected, though not sure how.

I have been going through the "Raising an Ebenezer," and becoming aware of things in my life

When the retreat leadership team asked me if I would be the main speaker, as I prayed about it, the two things just collided in my head and heart.

I found myself just wanting that Delight!

I have been praying that God would restore the joy of my salvation.

Given a book to read....on vacation, Chapter 1 ended with a prayer that God would restore the joy of my salvation!

The process of going from Childlike faith....grow and become more self reliant...Here are my plans...etc.

## **MY JOURNEY PT 1**

My passion was to know Him, and make Him known. Everything in my life revolved around that, around Him.

**"MORE THAN ENOUGH"** I would sing that...and He would ask me if He was enough for all of me...even if I didn't get to do all of the things I wanted to do (for Him, or course).

I began to see how I wasn't loving God with my whole heart and my whole soul during my journey 😞

Like when I was screaming and going crazy because he asked me to do something that I didn't want to do.

And I should have told my soul to be still and to trust God, but instead I freaked out.

I have so many instances of that. And so many of the not loving Him with my whole heart...I just wanted what I wanted! And, that placed other things, people, circumstances in my life over Him.

A song says I searched the world and it couldn't fill me... Man's empty praise and treasures that fade will never be enough.

Our flesh never says enough.

I told the Lord he was more than enough. But you could tell by my attitude that I wanted more.

I wasn't content and satisfied. Just being in his presence and knowing and loving him and then knowing and loving those he brings across my path.

I kept thinking that was just the step to the good stuff, maybe

Thinking that just because I wanted it, He wanted it (Still saying "Here are my plans, please bless them!")

Learning to say I love that, but I love You MORE

Christians and singing

All I want is You! (Singing, yet thinking...."I wonder if that sake is still going on at JC Penney....I wonder where we should go eat today?"

Not valuing what HE values

Replacing time with Him, for activity for Him

So not valuing Him!

Holding tight to what I want – While I sing, "You can have it ALL!

## KNOW PT 2

### SCARY VERSE

**"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!' Matthew 7:21-23, BSB**

**Pharisees had the Torah, first 5 books of the bible memorized, and Jesus said:**

“And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified about Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen His form, **nor does His word abide in you**, because you do not believe the One He sent....You pore over the Scriptures because you presume that by them you possess eternal life. These are the very words that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life....but I know you, **that you do not have the love of God within you.**” Matthew 5:37-42  
BSB

***“We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The one who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the one who loves God is known by God.” 1 Cor. 8:1-3, BSB*** (My notes....it’s the same word, Ginosko, #1097

**Jesus told us we would know if we love Him – if we obey Him!**

“You know identify people by their actions” (Matt. 7:20).

**The actions are not Christian service, speaking the message, or attending church... THE DECIDING FACTOR: ARE THEY OBEDIENT TO HIS WORDS?” (Bevere, p.194)**

**A Tree Known by Its Fruit**

***“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.” Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” Luke 6:33-35***

THE WHOLE JAMES DEBATE ABOUT FAITH AND WORKS

**HEBREW THOUGHT – WORDS HAVE ACTIONS ATTACHED TO THEM...BUT, IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT DOING ACTIONS!!!!!!**

(external only....Lord, Lord, didn’t I do this for You?)

Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 ~*These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*”

“Zeal without knowledge...”

Need to just “learn” more?

“But I did all these things FOR you!

I taught Sunday School

I was on the worship team

I was on the Prayer Team

They practice lawlessness.” (Matt. 7:23) “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew (ginosko) you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

The Greek word “ginosko,” is the same as the Hebrew word “Yada.” (To intimately know someone)

“We can be sure that we know “ginosko) Him if we obey His commands. If someone claims, “I know (ginosko) God, “ but doesn’t obey Gods commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth..” (1 John 2:3-4)

“The wise and foolish man....similar in appearance...both groups hear His words, but the first group does them, and the second group does not do them!”

You call your child, and they respond:

COMING 😞 OR COMING 😊

### **MY STUDIES FOR THIS RETREAT**

What a picture of what I'm teaching on. Here I was studying and studying and taking words apart and doing the mechanics of it all and the diagram, the sentence and figure out who he's talking to, why he's saying it, what they're doing. And like I said before, there is a point to that as we study His Word, but that's not the entirety of it. The point is to know Him more, to love Him more...But if we don't watch, then we take our study to that mechanical level and miss the delight. Which is when he just says, will you sit here with me and just listen to my heartbeat? Listen to what I love and what I think. Let me teach you. Learn from me for I am gentle and lowly of heart, He says. And as I closed my eyes and just sat there in his presence, the fatigue disappeared. The weariness disappeared and the refreshing started...”

**I had forgotten what it was all about!**

**BEING WITH HIM!**

**LOVING HIM....LIKING HIM ~ DELIGHTING IN HIM**

What happened?

Became distracted

The cares of the world....which choke the seed in us

The enormity of the task/need

Became so busy “doing” FOR Him that didn’t prioritize being WITH Him!

Martha, Martha!!!

### **I HAD GONE FROM DELIGHT TO DUTY!!!**

**FROM “COMING 😊” TO “COMING 😞”**

Ps. 27:8 “My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.”

And my heart responds, “Lord, I am coming.” NLT

When we are acting out of duty, we:

GET ANGRY AT HIM

AND, AT THOSE WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE, SERVE!

**“I know your deeds, your labor, and your perseverance.** I know that you cannot tolerate those who are evil, and you have tested and exposed as liars those who falsely claim to be apostles. Without growing weary, you have persevered and endured many things for the sake of My name. **But I have this against you: You have abandoned your first love. Therefore, keep in mind how far you have fallen.** Repent and perform the deeds you did at first. But if you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.” Revelation 2:2-4 BSB

**IT IS SIN – THAT WHICH SEPARATES US FROM HIM!**

**RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY ~ by John Mark Comer**

The need to turn aside.

Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day.

**HURRY IS NOT JUST A DISORDERED SCHEDULE. HURRY IS A DISORDERED HEART!**

**He orders our steps, we order our hearts**

**“LOVE AND HURRY ARE FUNDAMENTALLY INCOMPATIBLE.”**

If we keep pushing....don't rest...then we get angry (at God & people), frustrated, burned out

Have made it all about work – doing activities FOR HIM, while neglecting the most important:

**LOVING HIM & LOVING OTHERS**

**ULTIMATE QUESTION~~~ IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE PARTIALLY DEVOTED?**

ONE OF THE BEST QUOTES: “WE TEND TO STARE AT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND GLANCE AT GOD. WE NEED TO STARE AT GOD, AND GLANCE AT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.” (Kristi McLelland)

Stella Reed, Pastor's Wife, Angeles Temple LA

**“Prioritize time with Him over activity for Him!”**

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

**An Unhurried Life - the Practice of “Slowing” ~ John Mark Comer, “The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry.”**



The author questioned a friend “What do I need to do to be spiritually healthy?” “You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”

What does that look like?

Taking “Breaths” during the day...learning to be more aware of His Presence, to delight in Him!

Ps. 27:8 “My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.”

And my heart responds, “Lord, I am coming.” NLT

## **SATURDAY EVENING**

### **Review:**

“The Lord is looking...searching...for those who are fully, wholly, devoted to Him ~ so that He can strongly support them! (2 Chronicles 16:9 BSB)

### **MAIN SCRIPTURE**

**“Hear, O Israel. The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”**

**Deuteronomy 6:5 (NKJV)**

**The word for Hear ~ is Shema**

In Hebrew ~hearing, attentive consideration, and responsive obedience.

**In Ancient Hebrew - there is no separate word for obey!**

**The Hebrew word behind the English word “obey” is the verb שמע (Sh.M.A, Strong's #8085).**

**“Does the Lord have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying (Shema) the voice of the Lord?”**

True devotion is shown through following His will rather than just performing religious acts!

**If you don't obey, you haven't heard!**

**Partial obedience is disobedience!**

### **WORD ~ LOVE**

On English word – used to cover what is conveyed in multiple Hebrew and Greek words.

In our OT text, the word used is “Ahava” which means affection and often points to an intense emotional bond; root word “to give”

In the NT – the word used is “Agape” which stands for the highest form of love (unconditional, self-sacrificial, patient, kind, and it never fails”

**GOD IS LOVE!**

He showed His love by giving His Son Jn. 3:16

We must have a biblical view of what love looks like – versus an emotional, or culture fed idea.

**The basis for Israel's entire relationship with their God. JUST LIKE THE SHEMA – HEARING IS TIED TO AN ACTION—OBEDIENCE**

**LOVE IS TIED TO AN ACTION - Obedience**

"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." John 14:21 ESV

## **ALL MEANS ALL!!!**

### **WORD ~ HEART**

In OT – Lebab which denotes the inner core of a person—the seat of thought, will, conscience, and emotion.

"Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow springs of life." Proverbs 4:23

In NT - Kardia gathers the whole interior life—thinking, feeling, choosing

Strong's Greek: 2588. καρδία (kardia) – Heart

### **WHOLE HEART – MEANS AN “UNHINDERED YES!”**

#### **UNDIVIDED!!**

Matthew 6:21-24~ *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart also be ...No man can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. (NIV)"*

**wholehearted devotion ~ not mere ritual (Deuteronomy 10:12-16).**

### **WORD ~ SOUL**

**Nephesh** integrates body and breath as a living being

The soul is what animates the body and is the eternal aspect of a person.

"Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living soul." Gen. 2:7

"Soulish"~ natural, sensual, worldly, unspiritual, worldly-minded, without the spirit, and to follow their natural instinct ~ these seven different words or phrases all translate one and the same Greek word. (adjective for action of the soul)

**Commanding the soul: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name" (Psalms 103:1).**

**Be still!**

*In Hebrew thought a person is looked at as a single entity with no attempt to compartmentalize the person into separate parts*

**The Shema uses heart, soul, strength -- total personal commitment.**

### **WORD ~ KNOW (Yada)**

We may say that we "know" someone but simply mean we "know" of his or her existence,

**but in Hebrew thought, one can only "know" someone if they have a personal and intimate relationship with them.**

In Genesis 18:19 Elohiym says about Abraham, "I know him" meaning he has a very close relationship with Abraham.

In Genesis 4:1 it says that Adam "knew Eve his wife" implying a very intimate relationship.

### **TALKING TO BELIEVERS!!!**

**“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!’** Matthew 7:21-23, BSB

“We can be sure that we know “ginosko” Him if we obey His commands. If someone claims, “I know (ginosko) God, “ but doesn’t obey Gods commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth..” (1 John 2:3-4)

Obedience tied to knowing!

“The wise and foolish man....similar in appearance...both groups hear His words, but the first group does them, and the second group does not do them!”

They look identical in worship and service...the difference is the foundation — the unseen!. One group privately experiences intimacy with Gods (KNOWING HIM), the other doesn’t.

### **THE ENEMY LOVES TO TWIST THE TRUTH!**

### **NO, YOU ARE NOT SAVED BY WORKS!**

### **BUT ~ THERE IS AN ACTION ATTACHED TO BOTH SIDES OF ANY WORD!**

If His Word says: “Love you enemies.” You have 2 responses/choices:

**If I “hear” Him & “Love” Him ~ I OBEY!**

**If I DON’T “hear” or “love” Him – I don’t obey!**

**DELIGHT~ find joy, pleasure, and satisfaction in our relationship with Him**

**“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4**

### **REMEMBER YOUR FIRST LOVE**

**TALKING TO THE CHURCH ~ “I know your deeds, your labor, and your perseverance. I**

know that you cannot tolerate those who are evil, and you have tested and exposed as liars those who falsely claim to be apostles. **Without growing weary, you have persevered and**

**endured many things for the sake of My name. But I have this against you:** You have abandoned your first love. Therefore, keep in mind how far you have fallen. Repent and perform the deeds you did at first (what deeds? He said some great things before....religious things) But if you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.” Revelation 2:2-4 BSB

**Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 ~These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”**

**TIME TO MOVE BACK FROM DUTY TO DELIGHT!!!**

**FROM “COMING ☹️” TO “COMING 😊”**

Ps. 27:8 “My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “Lord, I am coming.” NLT

**WHEN LIVING OUT OF DUTY:**

**GET ANGRY AT HIM**

**AND, AT THOSE WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE, SERVE!**

**MARTHA, MARTHA**

**HURRY IS NOT JUST A DISORDERED SCHEDULE. HURRY IS A DISORDERED HEART!**

**He orders our steps, we order our hearts**

**TAKE THE TIME TO TURN ASIDE**

**LOVE AND HURRY ARE FUNDAMENTALLY INCOMPATIBLE.**

When you are hurried....you don't have time

Stella Reed, Pastor's Wife, Angeles Temple LA

**“Prioritize time with Him over activity for Him!”**

**ULTIMATE QUESTIONS~~~COURSE CORRECTIONS~**

**IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE PARTIALLY OBEDIENT?**

**IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE PARTIALLY DEVOTED?**

**WORD ~ STRENGTH**

◀3966. meod ▶ (meh-ODE)

**Lexical Summary**

meod: Very, exceedingly, much, greatly

Part of Speech: **Adjective**

**Whether magnifying the goodness of creation, the depth of covenant love, or the severity of judgment, this Hebrew intensifier functions as Scripture's exclamation point**

1. (properly) **vehemence**

**Strong's Hebrew: 3966. מְאֹד (meod) -- Very, exceedingly, much, greatly**

## **WORD ~ MIND**

### **1271. dianoia**

dianoia: Mind, understanding, thought, intention

Phonetic Spelling: (dee-an'-oy-ah)

KJV: imagination, mind, understanding

NASB: mind, minds, understanding, thoughts

1. deep thought, contemplation

3. (by implication) its exercise, i.e. purposeful mental activity

**Strong's Greek: 1271. διάνοια (dianoia) -- Mind, understanding, thought, intention**

—thinking God's thoughts after Him, valuing what He values and rejecting every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God.

### **Critical to Understand for Believers!**

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:3-5

Our main sessions last year

"The truth sets you free – the lies keep us captive (to emotions, circumstances!)

**Book: "Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table!" ~ Louie Giglio**

**BUT GOD....BECAUSE OF THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS**

**New Covenant Trajectory**

**HEART – is deceitful; the seat of pride, uncircumcised, BUT GOD**

**THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES**

The Fruit of the Spirit – NOT manufactured, but growing in our lives as we abide in Him:

**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**

### **Instructions for life**

**“We will not hide them from their children but will declare to the next generation the praises of the LORD and His might and the wonders He has performed. For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the coming generation would know them—even children yet to be born—to arise and tell their own children” ... Psalm 78:4-8**

### **THE JOURNEY**

Asking God to restore the “joy of my salvation.”

#### **RAISING AN EBENEZER**

Looking back

Traveled many years doing puppet shows

YWAM – Montana then California

Then back on the road

Camping a lot

“Joy in the Journey”

“It’s the journey, not the destination.”

Go through Hard Stuff!

**“I wonder why?” Camping in pouring rain in Florida**

**“For while we are in this tent, we groan ...” 2 Cor. 5:4**

#### **CHOOSE JOY!**

“I choose JOY!” ~ I think you need to tell your face that!

I don’t believe that is the choice!

What I saw....brought much regret!

Camping in Florida...had been long...and we were weary and cranky (again!)....MURMURING AND COMPLAINING!

\$1,000 for tires the day before...but now what?

Set up the tent....then heard "Move!

Moved to another site....

Asking why?

Site 78

Looked up the Scripture,

Psalms 78

**He worked wonders before their fathers  
in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.**

**13**He split the sea and brought them through;  
He set the waters upright like a wall.

**14**He led them with a cloud by day  
and with a light of fire all night.

**15**He split the rocks in the wilderness  
and gave them drink as abundant as the seas.

**16**He brought streams from the stone  
and made water flow down like rivers.

**17**But they continued to sin against Him,  
rebellious in the desert against the Most High.

**18**They willfully tested God  
by demanding the food they craved.

**19****They spoke against God, saying,  
"Can God really prepare a table in the wilderness?"**

**20**When He struck the rock, water gushed out  
and torrents raged.

But **can He also give bread  
or supply His people with meat?"**

**21**Therefore the LORD heard  
and was filled with wrath;  
so a fire was kindled against Jacob,  
and His anger flared against Israel,

**22**because they did not believe God  
or rely on His salvation.

**23****Yet** He commanded the clouds above  
and opened the doors of the heavens.

**24**He rained down manna for them to eat;  
He gave them grain from heaven.**c**

**25**Man ate the bread of angels;  
He sent them food in abundance.

**26**He stirred the east wind from the heavens  
and drove the south wind by His might.

**27**He rained meat on them like dust,  
and winged birds like the sand of the sea.



28 He felled them in the midst of their camp,  
all around their dwellings.

29 So they ate and were well filled,  
for He gave them what they craved.

30 Yet before they had filled their desire,  
with the food still in their mouths,

31 God's anger flared against them,  
and He put to death their strongest  
and subdued the young men of Israel.

32 In spite of all this, they kept on sinning;  
despite His wonderful works, they did not believe.

**1 Cor. 10:6, "the five sins that kept Israel from its destiny: craving evil things,, worshipping idols, sexual immorality, testing God, and complaining."**

**Saying, "God, I don't like what you are doing in my life...".**

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies!!!!

**WE DISHONOR GOD AND HIS WORD WHEN WE THINK OR SPEAK FROM THE POSTURE OF DISCONTENT." (Bevere P. 139 )**

**When we don't serve the Lord with gladness and joy, the enemy has the upper hand! (Bevere P. 138)**

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies!!!!

**"Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." Philippians 2:14-15**

**We are called to be living Testimonies!**

**To declare His Praises**

**To show the world how great our God is!**

**Looking for a job...ask workers what it is like to work for that company, or boss.....**

**Complaining tarnishes our witness.**

## **A SOBERING THOUGHT!**

**The same thing applies to how we speak about others!!**

**“Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!” James 5:9**

**Grumbling invites judgment.**

**“Also Moses said, ‘This shall be seen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord.’” Exodus 16:8**

**Complaining is far worse than we realize! It is ultimately against God and brings severe consequences . ( Numbers 11:1)**

**Psalms 106:25 “But complained in their tents, and did not heed the voice of the Lord.”**

Source: <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Complaining>

**If I just had....that job...that relationship...that whatever....**

**WE ARE STILL CRAVING THE 1 TREE IN THE MIDST OF THE HUGE GARDEN!**

**REALITY CHECK! If we are not content WITH HIM, we won't be content no matter what He does!**

**It will never be enough!!!!**

**Godliness with contentment is great gain**

**Conversation with a young lady – said she lost her “20's” from being so angry....life not turning out the way she wanted....(drinking, etc.)**

**SURELY GOD WAS THERE AND I WAS UNAWARE. (Gen. 28:16”**

**A letter ~**

**...When I've been going through hard things, I've had so many voices telling me that I had a right to be angry, that I had a right to be depressed, that the circumstances weren't fair and all of that. But so few voices encouraging me that I had a God who was bigger than all of that and that I could trust Him in everything...I missed out on a lot of peace in my life. I missed out on a lot of joy in my life, because I believed those other voices. I don't want that for you. I want to be a voice to you and to your brother that speaks truth because I know it's truth that sets you free. You serve a mighty, mighty God, a gracious, merciful, wonderful father who promises in all things to work for your good. He is not a liar. Our circumstances will be proved a liar before He ever is. He will do what he says, but He tells us to trust Him. He tells us to seek Him, to trust His character. To trust that He's all-powerful and that He's for us and not**

against us. And when we do that, then we don't pick up the right to be offended, because ultimately we're just offended against Him for letting it happen. But God, your God, can use every circumstance that comes past your path to develop you into the man He's called you to be. **Don't try to short circuit the process. Lean into Him quicker. Trust Him faster. Be thankful that you don't have to go through anything alone, and be grateful that He is your God and He has called you to be His own.** God willing, that process won't take as long as it has done for me and so many others that I've seen walk down that path. **I regret that I didn't have more peace and joy in my life. And I think I kind of blamed God for it too. Thinking if He'd only changed the circumstances, then I would have it. But that was a lie. And I missed out.**

**IMPORTANT POINT:**

**WE DON'T CHOOSE JOY – WE CHOOSE GRATITUDE!!!!**

**Suggested Books:**

**Healing from Life's Deepest Hurts: Reclaiming Your Life After Grief, Loss, or Trauma ~** by Kimberly Haar

**The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry ~** by John Mark Comer

**Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table Bible Study Guide plus Streaming Video: It's Time to Win the Battle of Your Mind ~** by Louie Giglio