

## Draw Near: Increased Intimacy With God

Love the Lord your God with all Your Mind  
Matthew 22:37

### **What are some practical ways that I can love God with all of our mind?**

#### Defining “Mind”

- “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38
- The word “mind” comes from a Greek word that means, “deep thought, imagination, understanding and exercising the mind.” (Strong’s Concordance)
- According to Jesus, the greatest commandment is to love God with all of our thinking, thoughts, imagination and understanding.
- Father, please teach us through the Spirit how to love You with all of our minds.

#### 1. Surrender Our Minds to Jesus

- “Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.’” Mark 8:34-35
- “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” Galatians 2:20a
- Becoming a genuine follower of Christ means surrendering everything - including our minds - thoughts, thinking, imagination and understanding.
- Did you know that “accepting Jesus” is not in the Bible? He is not waiting to be “accepted” by us. He is waiting for us to bow before Him and surrender every part of our lives to His Lordship. Only then can we develop a love for Him.
- Have you ever totally surrendered your mind to Jesus? Would you right now?

## 2. Renew Our Minds

- “Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2a
- The word “renew” literally means, “to renovate, to make new.” (Strong’s)
- We genuinely need to partner with God for a total renovation of our minds. So how do we renew our minds?
  1. Start by receiving a new mind through genuine salvation. (Ephesians 4:20-24)

2. Receive the “mind of Christ” through the filling of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:9-16)
3. Read the Bible everyday, especially the gospels. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
4. Set (intentionally focus) our minds on God's purposes. (Colossians 3:1-2)

### 3. Evaluate Our Thoughts by Biblical Truth

- “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.” 2 Corinthians 10:5
- “arguments” = computation, reasoning, imagination, thought (Strong's)
- “pretension” = elevated thing, barrier, high place (Strong's)
- We are constantly thinking thoughts about our world, ourselves and others. The majority of these thoughts come out of the “truths” that we have accepted into our hearts. (Luke 6:43-45)
- But these things and thoughts aren't necessarily true! In fact, many of them feel and sound good; but are actually contrary to the heart and truth of God.
- This is why we must read the Bible daily; so we can recognize thoughts that are contrary to God. Then we can “repent” and submit them to God's truth.

## 4. Train Our Minds to Love and Honor God

- “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. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.” 1 Peter 1:13-14
- “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him,” 1 Peter 5:8-9a
- Our minds can be trained for spiritual warfare. Remember our mind is always subject to the Spirit of God that lives within us.
- It takes time, practice and discipline; but we can create “muscle memory” in our thinking. We can develop a mindset that immediately seeks to honor God and fight for God’s purposes no matter what life, or the devil, throws at us.
- Don’t default into being a spiritual sissy. Prepare your mind for action.