



Go for God!

## **“Love the Lord Your God with All Your STRENGTH!”**

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

> Text: Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:28-34 – 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."

> 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 ALWAYS!**
- Love God with all our MIND! – That is to **LEARN** and **OBEY** His **WORD!**

(We are Disciples.)

> **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 Nehemiah 8:10 – “. . . the JOY of the LORD is your STRENGTH.”

- **What is the JOY OF THE LORD?** – In Hebrews 12:1-2 - *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. His joy is YOU!!!*

- Jesus said in John 15:13-17 - Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.

> 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.

> Observe strength without power: Judges 16:4-31

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

- Key #1 – Through CHRIST - Matthew 12:24-30

- 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\*](#) they 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!**