

*"Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt **love the Lord** thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." **Matthew 22:35-38 KJV***



Our heart, soul, and mind are our emotions, being, and intellect. Our emotions reflect what we think and our thoughts reveal who we are through the things we do. *"As he thinketh in his heart, so is he."* If I am possessed by thoughts of someone, It will be either thoughts of hate or thoughts of love and affection. Affection and fondness are the emotions of love. Disdain and anger are the emotions of hate. I decide which by deciding on which thoughts to dwell. Who I am determines what kinds of thoughts I allow to take up residence. If I have truly been born again of the Spirit of God, I am a new creature and my desire will be to follow and obey God's Word, to *'meditate (think on) therein day and night,'* and thereby have thoughts that are pure and Holy. Sin will vex and distress me. Once born again, I will have choices I never had before. To choose between the desires of my spirit and the desires of my flesh. God progressively sanctifies or conforms my soul or being from impurity to purity, from unholy to Holy, from sinner to saint through obedience to the Word of God. *"I can do all things through Christ,"* the Word; because my mind or intellect is strengthened against the impurities of the flesh that constantly bombard my soul through my thinking on God's Word. It is the thought life that either brings you peace or turmoil. The Apostle used severe language when addressing this issue. He said, *"I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection."* The struggle is intense enough to discourage the fiercest spiritual warrior. He sought God thrice to remove his thorn in the flesh. God reassured Paul by saying, *"My grace is sufficient for thee."* If God's grace was sufficient for Paul, it is sufficient for our trials as well. Beaten bloody many times, left for dead, stoned, imprisoned, shipwrecked, and finally beheaded, he was more than severely tested. If he can testify that *"we are more than conquerors"* and *"can do all things through Christ,"* then by virtue of his life, if nothing else, his testimony is sure. *"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* Is God your treasure?

Loving God with all of your heart,
Will set your mind and soul apart,
For adoration of the KING,
And to your life His blessings bring. ~CGP

We must, through the power of the Holy Spirit, command our thoughts and emotions, so our being can experience the wonder that is God. The very fact that you avoid God's Word gives testament to the fact that you really don't want to know Him! If you did, you would hear His Voice and follow Him! Don't try to convince me you believe when your whole life is dedicated to acquiring what you want! Your deeds betray your heart! If you love God, you will obey God.

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"
Philippians 3:7-9 KJV