

Faithful Woman Newsletter

"CHARM IS DECEITFUL
AND BEAUTY IS PASSING,
BUT A WOMAN WHO FEARS
THE LORD,
SHE SHALL BE PRAISED."
PROVERBS 31:30

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"MAY THE LORD
DIRECT YOUR HEARTS
INTO THE LOVE OF
GOD AND INTO THE
STEADFASTNESS OF
CHRIST."
2 THESS. 3:5

Loving the Lord

by Morgan Carter

In August of 2010, I decided to become a Christian. I realized that I had sin in my life, but I also believed that Jesus was (and is) the Son of God and I loved Him. But I wonder; how much do we as Christian girls and women love God?

In Mark 12:30, it reads, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." First of all, we are to love God with all of our hearts. Someone once said that the "heart" the Bible talks about is not the thumper in our chests, but the thinker in our heads. This means that we are to love God whole-heartedly and not half-genuinely. Next, the verse says to love the Lord with all of our soul. If we live our life godly, God will let our soul go to heaven. The soul is the most important part about humans; therefore, God wants us to love Him with the most important part of us. The third way we should love God is with our minds. We should mentally love Him and think about God. If we are thinking about God, then we cannot be thinking about ugly and dirty things. In Colossians 3:2, it says, "Set your mind on things above and not on the things of earth." This verse tells us that we should think of God. The fourth way that we should love God is with our strength. God wants us to have a strong knowledge of Him through His Word. We are to be strong and stand up for what is right. Also, we should use our strength in helping others; and in doing a service for them, we are doing it for the Lord. In Matthew 25:40, it says, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, 'Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me.'"

If we love God the right way, we will go to Heaven. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." John 14:15. God promises us eternal life with Him in Heaven if we keep His commandments. There is an old gospel song that says, "To know Him is to love Him; and to love Him is to serve Him."

I am no expert, since I am 13 years old; but this is how I think we as Christians should love the Lord.

(Morgan is one of our Young Readers/Young Writers.)

Love the Lord your God with all your *Mind*

By Dana Alsbrook

I don't know about you, but there are many times at the end of the day when I feel like I cannot find the energy to do one more thing. No matter how simple or routine that one more thing is. For instance, I will lie down in bed to go to sleep and remember that I have forgotten to brush my teeth. So, now I am laying there having that mental conversation, "I really need to get up and brush my teeth. But if I get up, I will probably not be tired anymore and then it will be even later when I am tired again." You get the idea. In the end, what helps me decide is a simple question; do I want to possibly pay several hundred dollars on a dental procedure for fillings or other dental work? So, I choose to get out of the bed and brush my teeth because of the ultimate consequence that could affect my pocket book. Consider if you will the mental motivation to get myself out of bed. It seems as if it is a motivation that is not always present in my life! This is the same motivation that I need when I want to exercise... or refuse that wonderful dessert...or read my Bible...or spend the time I need with my kids teaching them God's truth. Why is it that sometimes I find the energy to check Facebook or watch television, but I can't find the same determination for the things that are most important to me? I love the way I feel when I eat right and exercise. I love reading God's word and spending time with my children. So, what keeps me from being constant in these practices or disciplines? I wonder if perhaps, maybe, I do not love those things like I ought. Perhaps, I am not loving the Lord like I ought. Perhaps, my actions are saying that I love the pleasures of this world more than those heavenly treasures?

My husband and I are trying to form the habit of having a daily family devotional. We always start off strong and then fatigue sets in. We are tired and ask, "Will one night really make a difference in our children's life?" It may not. It probably will not. But...perhaps...it just might. Perhaps we discuss something that night that stays with them and helps them flee the devil when the time is right. What then? Is it possible to put a value on that particular night? If I could see the future and know that it would make this lasting impression, could I find the energy then? I think I would be so excited about that study and time together that I would probably stay up all night in the excitement of knowing that our child

would be protected from that Roaring Lion, the devil, on the hunt. Whatever ounce of mental strength it took to make that night happen, I would consider it a blessing! These eternal consequences, I must keep always at the front of my mind. As Proverbs 3:13-14 states, "How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding. For its profit is better than the profit of silver, And its gain than fine gold." This is the kind of Godly wisdom and understanding that our children need. It is the kind of Godly wisdom that we all need. This Godly wisdom to help in this world of pleasure and sin is of utmost value.

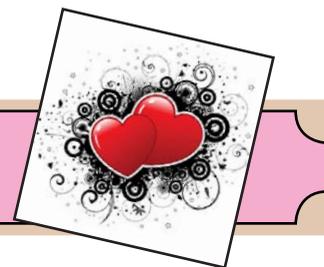
The devil is always trying to squeeze his way into any Christian's life. The temptations are all around us each day to keep up with and be like everyone else. The only way to combat this imperfect world is by attaining this perfect wisdom only found in God's word. Romans 12:2 states, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Doesn't that sound great? This is exactly what we need when we are weak and not able to find the energy for the truly important things. We need a transformation, a renewal! We must read God's word every day! When our days are busy and our plates are overflowing with things to do, we must remind ourselves that in order to prove what is good and acceptable and perfect to God, we must read His word to find out. This daily reading will develop a love for God that will start in the mind, but will grow into an active, outward love for the many souls lost in this world. Showing others that the Lord lives in us, as well as how comforted we are by Him, should show those outside of Christ where to go and the greatest thing to attain.

I know that when I fall short from making the best decisions, I can take comfort in God's word. His word will get me back on track to the person I want to be, and He desires me to be. As Proverbs 3:5-6 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight." As Christians, we must be a determined people with a mindful

purposeful mission. A group that has an end goal for Heaven, but also a daily goal of reaching Heaven and taking those we love with us. There is nothing more important in this life than pleasing God and attaining that heavenly reward! We must keep this great reward of spending eternity with God at the front of our minds, so that with God's help, we will find the energy we need for His work. I have a dear friend whose grandmother once said, "If we miss Heaven, we've missed everything!" and I guess I cannot say it any better than that.

Love the Lord with all your Soul

By Alicia Bookout



"You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body." (C.S. Lewis) I absolutely love this quote because it snaps me back to reality when I read it. I am more than just a physical body. I was put on this earth for a purpose. I was not made just to enjoy earthly pleasures. My soul was created by God and that soul is what will live on and on in eternity after my earthly body has deceased. So, why then would I want to spend more time worrying about what I wear or what I eat than what my soul is in need of? If I really focus and keep in mind that I am here on this earth for one reason, to love and obey the Lord with all my soul, then it will make my daily physical life easier. I will always have HIM on the forefront of my mind. It will help me with my daily struggles in life and I will be an example for Him because my soul will shine through my earthly body. I will want to do exactly as He tells me because I want my soul to live with Him in Heaven forever.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says, "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. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." This was told to the children of Israel right after Moses read to them the Ten Commandments from God. They had just been told how to live in a pleasing way to God and then they were told to love the Lord with all their souls. If they truly loved the Lord with all their souls then they would keep His commands in their hearts, teach His commands to their families and be so drowned in Him that His Word would be seen all over their lives. This is how we love the Lord with all our souls.

In a world so full of people not worried about their souls, it does a heart good to hear real life examples of people who really and truly live for Jesus. That is why I love the example of Lois and Eunice so much. Even though they are only mentioned in one tiny section, it encourages me to live better because of their example. 2 Timothy 1:1-6 says, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also." How amazing to be acknowledged in this light by the apostle Paul! Lois and Eunice loved the Lord with all their souls and that is what they lived for. They did just what God commanded; they kept His commands in their hearts and taught them to their children. Timothy proves this by the life he lives. Their legacy lived on. This is what I want! I want to be so imbedded with God and His word that I not only teach it to others, but it shows through my life decisions. I want my children and my children's children to be in Heaven with me one day.

How can we be modern-day Lois and Eunice's? By loving the Lord our God with all our SOULS! By knowing that our physical bodies will die and decay but our souls will live on forever. By letting our children and grandchildren see us make decisions not on what our physical bodies want, but by what God's word says. By fulfilling our spiritual needs before our physical needs. Let us love the Lord with our souls so much that our examples will leave a legacy for generations to come!

Love the Lord your God with all your Heart

By Laura Warnes

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart” - Helen Keller. I found this to be a beautiful quote. The older I get, the more “emotional” I seem to be. I find myself weeping more often at worship, at funerals, during weddings and when babies are born. I can sing songs to the Lord and listen to the words and before long I can be lost weeping in worship to my King. When I was younger, I seldom cried. While some people might be brought to tears by things like this, others do not show their emotions outwardly. Think of the men in our lives. Some men are more prone to showing emotions; others are not. King David was known as a man after God’s own heart, and he was very forthcoming with his emotions, whether he was heartbroken (Ps 51:17), or jubilant (Ps 59:16,17). Take a look at the apostles. They all had different personalities. Obviously, people are different in how they show their emotions. An outward display of emotions is not necessarily a test of the inward heart.

I found this quote sad, (by political cartoonist and poet, Michael Leunig, who does not profess Christianity,) “Love one another and you will be happy. It’s as simple and as difficult as that.” While quite profound, without any guidance, the author and his audience are left without the hope of true happiness. Jesus said something similar once, but He gave His audience clear guidance and hope for our future. In Luke 10:27, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...; and your neighbor as yourself.”

In the English language, we either view the heart to be the organ that pumps blood through the circulatory system of our bodies, or the emotional feelings held by an individual. But here are three examples of different ways heart is used in the Greek NT. Among others, it is translated as mind, soul and emotions.

The first way the heart is translated is as the Mind, (Luke 3:15) “all were wondering in their hearts”; (Luke 5:22) “reasoning in your hearts”. The second way the heart is translated is as the Soul, (Acts 2:37) ...they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” And finally, the

third way the heart is translated is as our Emotions, (John 16:22), “Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

Consider Matthew 12:40, “for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” For just as Jonah was in the CENTER of the big fish, Christ foretold that He would be in the HEART (or CENTER) of the earth for three nights. Likewise, we must make Christ the very CENTER of our being! And how can we do that? In every area of our lives! We can start by following His commands. Christ said, in John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

Christ did not leave us to flounder without further encouragement and guidance. His Word continues to be a lamp with the message that we need to help us see a clear picture of how the Lord wants us to show His love to Him. 1 John 3:10-23, “By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another... But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.”

Loving the Lord with all our hearts might feel emotional at times. This can even be a good thing, so long as this emotion results in an action. Love is well described in...

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1 Cor 13, "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal... But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love."

These are all emotions. Christ told us what the greatest commandment and the greatest emotion is: Love. I may become more emotional the older I get, but will I become more loving? Will I become more loving to Christ through my brothers and sisters? It is my prayer that regardless of our emotional level, each of us always chooses godly, loving action over clanging cymbals.



My Bible, My Friend

by Deborrah Cole Neilson

When I was nine years old I was given my Bible.

It was a wonderful gift that I had asked for. I remember being so excited to start reading from its pages. I would spend most of my spare time in my bedroom reading page after page. The more I read the more intrigued I became. I started at the beginning and I would read until I couldn't read anymore then I would read some more. The words and I became one. I began to understand the words. I began to understand what kind of person I should become. That bible became my best friend. I never got too far from my Bible. I took it everywhere with me. Yes, me and that book went many a mile together. We survived loss and changes together. As the years went by it became more and more seasoned as I grew. Its pages began to wear and the cover began to tear. But the words were still my companion. I knew it from cover to cover. I was able to find any story in seconds. It was one of the best gifts that I have ever received. I don't have that old raggedy book anymore. We were separated finally some years back. Its cover was completely wore away and some of its pages had been torn. I miss that old book like a long lost friend. I have a new Bible now but it just isn't the same. We haven't shared the miles together. It is all new and crisp. And I am not. I am thankful to have had that old book for so long. I learned so much from its pages. It has carried me through and it will continue to carry me through though we are no longer together. This new book will never quite take its place but it will carry on its legacy.

So long old friend. And thanks again for helping me through the years.

*"Your word is very pure,
Therefore Your servant
loves it."
Psalm 119:140*



Fun and Unique Holidays to celebrate in 2013.

January 24 - Compliment Day

February 7 - Send a Card to a Friend Day

March 14 - National Potato Chip Day

April 30 - National Honesty Day

May 9 - Lost Sock Memorial Day

June 7 - National Donut Day

July 11 - Cheer Up the Lonely Day

August 2 - National Ice-Cream-Sandwich Day

September 19 - Talk Like a Pirate Day

October 3 - Look at the Leaves Day

November 15 - Clean Out Your Frig Day

December 5 - Annual Day of the Ninja

Love the Lord Your God With All Your Strength

by Beth Howard

Strength. A word meaning muscles that lift hundreds of pounds, feet that run miles, and energy that never seems to run down. Yes, but looking around us, even at our own frail bodies, we realize that God is not commanding us to be so physically strong. Some are born unable to run or even walk. If God's command to love Him is with physical strength alone, then He would be showing partiality and we know God is not partial (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Galatians 2:6).

So how DO we love God with all our strength? What is that strength? From Strongs, Thayers, and Vines Dictionaries, the word "strength" in this verse doesn't mean so much physical strength, but means "overly", "in extreme", "above and beyond", "very", "to the utmost", "muchly". It's a superlative strength.

As we mature spiritually, we rise to this strength, grow to it. God doesn't "feed" it to us every so often while we sit and wait for it. Yes, it comes from God, but it comes when we desire in our hearts to seek Him through His Word, when we truly learn who He is, when we ask His help for the trials and challenges we face, and when we recognize that He is the only one who can supply the strength we need to get through life (Philippians 4:13).

Paul tells the Ephesians (6:10) "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." Then he goes on to tell them how...by putting on the "whole armor of God", with the Word, The Sword of the Spirit in their hands, to stand firm and pray. Each piece of armor has a purpose in supplying strength, but it's useless without the Sword of the Spirit. It gives examples of strength, and reminds us of the love God has for each of us. It builds our faith (Romans 10:17). It gives us hope (Galatians 5:5; Ephesians 1:18; 4:4; Colossians 1:5). It equips and guides us for every good work, on whatever path, throughout our lifetime (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalms 119:105).

Throughout the pages of the Bible we find many examples of loving God with all strength. Abraham was told to move his family to a strange land. That was hard enough. But look at the strength of character, faith, and

determination to do God's will when he was told to "go and offer Isaac". We're not told of the agony and heartache he must have gone through. But his love for and faith in God gave him the strength---physically, emotionally and spiritually---to do as God asked.

Others, like Queen Esther, risked her life for her people. Job lost everything he had and all of his children...ALL at the same time. How could he bear that burden? How could he NOT curse God? He knew his only hope was in God.

Then Paul, while facing death, writes letters from prison that express his faith, hope, love, and yes, even joy. He examples the "Greatest Commandment" for us, showing us how we, too, can love God with ALL our hearts, ALL our minds, ALL our soul---our very innermost being---and with ALL our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual strength. Paul had "a thorn in the flesh". We don't know what it was, but it bothered him. Evidently he was physically hindered, but never do we see Paul using that as an excuse. His strength shone through in his courage to do what God wanted him to do. His faith and hope in God and God's promises are always evident. He loved God with the entirety of his being, every day of his life, from the bright light on the road to Damascus until his death at the hands of a Roman government.

Even though we are not like the Apostle Paul, there are many things we as women can do. Look at the life of that virtuous woman (Proverbs 31) and see all she did, not only for her household, but for others as well. Study Esther. look at Dorcas, who sewed for people. Look at Lydia, who was a business woman. Look at Priscilla, who helped her husband Aquila in his teaching the Gospel. Look at the women who were with Jesus and the Apostles.

There are many things we can do as Christian women to love God with all our strength. Many of those things are not public and may seem to go unnoticed. But God knows every call you make, every card you send, every word of encouragement you speak, every prayer you pray, every class you teach, every time you stand up for

the Truth. Even a “cup of water” is important to Him (Matthew 10:42; Mark 9:41).

Loving God with all our strength goes beyond the words “I love You, God.” It goes beyond the mere physical. It is a decision of our hearts and minds. It’s something we DO. But loving God cannot be done alone. Strength to love God as we ought must be shared with others. As His Church, we must be unified in faith, love one another, encourage one another and “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). For our love to properly go upward to God, it must go outward to others.

To love God with a superlative strength, we must have determination. Our minds must be ever learning. Our character must be courageous and watchful, always standing for Truth with every ounce of strength and zeal within us. Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength must be our way of life. Our Eternal destiny depends on it.



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pass it on



L.O.L.

by Renae Goyne

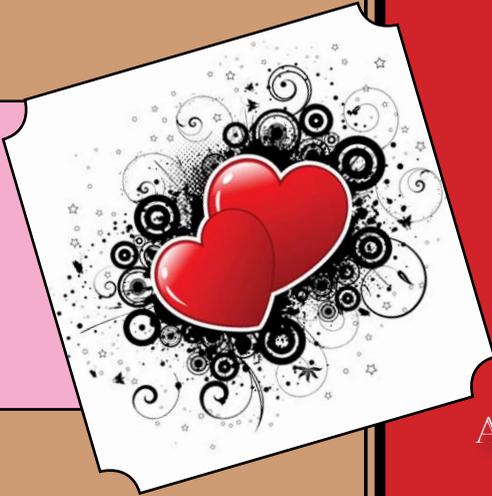
Recently a high school friend’s 8 yr. old son asked her “what did lol stand for. She explained that it meant “Laugh out Loud”, and he stated “Oh I thought it meant Love our Lord.” It just amazes me how a child’s mind works. As we grow up we seem to lose that innocence. I wish we could keep that innocence with us throughout our life. We all could learn from our children.

We do need to remember to make our Lord first in our lives each day. In fact, this should be in our thoughts at all times. As a verse to an old hymn says, “I love the Lord, because He first loved me.” How could we not love someone who gave their only son? John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but has everlasting life.”

Our love for our Lord should give us the strength we need to face every trial in our lives. Psalms 18:1 tells us, “I will love thee, O Lord, my strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. We need to love our Lord as no one else in our lives. We need to make our Lord first in our lives and everyone and everything else should be second. Ephesians 3:19 says, “to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” As Christians, we are so blessed to have someone that loves us this much.

Christians are so loved by our father. He adopted us as his children. Ephesians 1:5 tells us, “Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.” I love being a part of this kind of amazing love.

One night when I couldn’t sleep, I watched the movie entitled, “A Walk to Remember.” The movie quotes verses from 1 Corinthians 13. Love is patient; Love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited nor rude, never selfish, not quick to take offense. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope and endurance. In words, there are three things that last forever faith, hope and love, but greatest of them all is love. This is how God loves each one of us, even though we aren’t perfect. This is how we need to love our Lord and each other. We need to always remember to love our Lord, because He has always loved us, even before we were born.



“ AND YOU SHALL *Love*
THE *Lord your God*
WITH *all* YOUR *heart*,
AND WITH *all* YOUR *soul*,
AND WITH *all* YOUR *mind*
AND WITH *all* YOUR *strength*. ”
Mark 12:30

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