The Terre Haute

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 12

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WITH MY WHOLE HEART John Edwards

The Scriptures affirm the Lord wants our whole heart. Jesus said, "*Thou shalt love the* Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Mt. 22:37). Let's take a look at some things to do with the whole heart:

PRAISE THE LORD. 1

Chronicles 16:25 says, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised." Have we learned this important truth? The Psalmist exclaimed, "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart...' (Ps. 9:1). "Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation" (Ps. 111:1). "I will praise thee with my whole heart...." (Ps. 138:1). Is that your attitude? Hebrews 13:15, "By him [Christ] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Peter penned, ...that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Pet. 2:9).

KEEP HIS TESTIMONIES. It is written in Psalm 119:2, "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." He went on to say, "Give me

understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart" (v. 34). "The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole *heart*" (v. 69). The whole heart is needed in keeping God's testimonies. In the days of Josiah, Judah and Jerusalem made a covenant before the Lord, "...to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul..." (2 Ki. 23:3). We need such a heart today!

SEEK THE LORD. "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart" (Ps. 119:2). Verse 10 states, "With mv whole heart have I sought thee...." To find the Lord, we must seek him with the whole heart. "But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God. thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (Dt. 4:29). Paul preached, "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us" (Acts 17:27). Diligence is needed in this seeking! "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is. and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

INTREAT GOD'S FAVOUR.

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The Psalmist said unto the Lord. "I intreated thy favour with my whole heart..." (Ps. 119:58). Have you intreated the Lord's favour with your whole heart? Verse 145, "I cried with my whole heart: hear me. O Lord: I *will keep thy statutes.* "How long has it been since you cried unto the Lord with your whole heart? "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry" (Ps. 34:15). "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles" (Ps. 34:17).

TURN UNTO THE LORD. The desire of the Lord is that folks would turn unto Him with their whole heart. "And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart. but feignedly, saith the Lord" (Jer. 3:10). Verse 14, "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you...." The prophet Joel expressed this same concept in Joel 2:12-13, "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repented him of the evil."

Have you given the Lord your whole heart?

DIFFERENT THINKING

Nicolas Edwards

All throughout history, men have differed in their thinking. Let's look at some examples.

WELL ABLE; NOT ABLE. We see two different mindsets among the spies sent to search the land of Canaan. Caleb said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. But the men that went up with him said, we be not able to go up against the *people; for they are stronger* than we" (Num. 13:30-31). What would we have said? The difference in thinking differentiated who entered the promised land! Caleb was brought in (Num. 14:24). We need to be as Paul and say, "I can" (Phil. 4:13).

THE LAW; SMOOTH

THINGS. In Nehemiah 8:1 the people requested, "the book of the law." A different mindset is found in Isaiah 30. The people would "not hear the law of the Lord" (v. 9). Their request was, "prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits" (v. 10). What is our request?

COMPLAIN; CONTENT.

The people of Israel often complained. "And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord: and the Lord heard it, and His anger was kindled" (Num. 11:1). Contrast this with Paul's good example in Philippians 4:11, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." We need to "Do all things without murmerings and disputings" (Phil. 2:14).

PROUD; HUMBLE.

Different thinking is seen between the Pharisee and the publican. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God. I thank thee, that I am not as other men are...the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast. saving. God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other" (Lk. 18:11-14). Which is our thinking? Remember, "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Pet. 5:5).

CARNAL; SPIRITUAL. Romans 8 depicts two different minds: the carnal and the spiritual. "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (v. 6.) The spiritual mind minds the things of the Spirit (v. 5), is subject to the law of God (v. 7), and is led by the Spirit (v. 14). The mind which one has is expressed through his speech "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Mt. 12:34).

SEND ME; FLEE. In Isaiah 6:8 the Lord asked, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah answered, "Here am I; send me." What a great statement. Different thinking is seen in Jonah as he was told, "Arise, go to Ninevah" (Jon. 1:2). "But Jonah rose up to flee from the presence of the Lord" (Jon. 1:3). What is our thinking?

WORK; SLUGGARD. The Lord said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (Jn. 9:4). "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing" (Prov. 20:4). Do we have "a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6)?

How is your thinking?

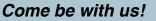
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