

Your Relationship with God

Commentary for September 1, 2008 — Unique, Personal, and Profound

The "[September 2008 Newsletter](#)" and Article "God: Contradictions and Harmony" are now available on the ASK website. The article will give you fascinating biblical information about God, your creator, which you need to know to more fully understand Him, His nature, and why He does some of the things that He does (or doesn't do). It discusses the good and bad about God, and knowing such things about God as part of your relationship with Him.

Each person's relationship with God is unique, personal, and profound. Therefore it is vitally important that you learn and know all you can about the God with whom you shall have that relationship with for the rest of your life, and after you are resurrected to spiritual life when Christ returns to this earth, for eternity. You shall indeed put into practice what Moses first said could happen after Israel is punished for seeking after other gods than YHWH:

"But if from thence you shall seek YHWH your God, you shall find him, if you seek him

[1] **with all your heart and**

[2] **with all your soul."**¹

• *Deuteronomy 4:29*

Moses later expanded on that command to the people of Israel as they approached the promised land of Canaan:

"You shall love YHWH your God

[1] **with all your heart, and**

[2] **with all your soul, and**

[3] **with all your might.**

And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart"

• *Deuteronomy 6:5–6*

Yes, indeed **"you shall love YHWH"** with those three elements. Begin now to do so. Learn everything you can about your Creator. Read or listen to His Word,² the Bible. Study what He means by the words, phrases, sentences that He uses, and the significance of the larger contexts of chapters, and books of His Word. Learn the relationships between various sections of the Bible.³ The words of Scripture put God's thoughts into your mind (in the same way that the thoughts of any author of a book or article are put into your mind).

The first two elements expressed in Deuteronomy 6:5 are reiterated in different formulations in Deuteronomy 10:12, 11:13, and 30:6. Jesus Himself expressed these points differently (Matthew 22:37) and even expanded them:

When Jesus was asked a question by a perceptive scribe, **"Which is the first commandment of all?"** The answer the scribe received was precise:

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1. Toward the end of the Kingdom of Judah King Josiah did indeed seek God and repent in the manner prescribed by Moses (2 Kings 23:25).
 2. Numerous audio Bibles are listed on the [ASK Weblinks](#) under "Electronic Bible Resources."
 3. A good place to start would be to read Dr. Martin's book which describes the design and development of the Holy Scriptures, [Restoring the Original Bible](#). See also the symmetry and the design of the Bible graphically displayed at ["Diagram: The Symmetry of the Bible"](#)

“And Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And you shall love the Lord your God

- [1] **with all your heart, and**
- [2] **with all your soul, and**
- [3] **with all your mind, and**
- [4] **with all your strength:**

this is the first commandment.”

• Mark 12:28–30

The scribe praised Jesus and he expanded them even more:

“And to love him [1] with all the heart, and [2] with all the understanding, and [3] with all the soul, [4] and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

• Mark 12:33

Jesus approved of the scribe’s discretion of his question (Mark 12:34). In what appears to be a different incident a lawyer asked Jesus and received an answer:

“And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, ‘Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ He [Jesus] said unto him, ‘What is written in the law? how read you?’

And he answering said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God [1] with all your heart, and [2] with all your soul, and [3] with all your strength, and [4] with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’

And he said unto him, ‘You have answered right: this do, and you shall live.’”

• Luke 10:25–28

Most people live in a hazy state of not knowing anything as to where they came from, where they are going, what happens after death, their purpose of being. Or, they have erroneous information from religious leaders. You have an opportunity to know the answers to such questions of life direct from God Himself without an intermediary.⁴ It does, however, take education and study which is hard work. Such endeavors will please God and give you an opportunity to seek God’s approval:

“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

• 2 Timothy 2:15

You have been chosen by God to now learn about Him in this life, and not having to wait until the Great White Throne Judgment period when the vast majority of people will learn what you can learn now. This is a tremendous blessing because most people live and die without ever seriously thinking about God. You have literally won the lottery far more important than any other. Do not squander what is (literally) a blessed God-given opportunity.

Dr. Martin’s article will powerfully enhance your knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of God as Creator and as the Almighty.

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4. The ASK website is designed to help you learn additional biblical details about such matters. Read the various articles under the “Articles” tab at the top of the ASK homepage. Most importantly, read Dr. Martin’s book [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#).