

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

August 14, 2025 – Cultivating a First Commandment Lifestyle – Erlinda Cruz

LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART

We are called to engage our heart with Jesus with enthusiasm in pursuing and obeying Him. Some search for Bible verses or definitions of grace to validate giving less of themselves to love Jesus.

We set our love on God by determining that the primary dream (goal and definition of success) of our life is to walk out the first commandment by grace. Our secondary dreams and definitions of success are related to our family, friends, vocation, ministry etc.—they flow from loving God.

14“Because he has set his love [heart] upon Me, therefore I will deliver him.” (Ps. 91:14)

David set his heart to love God (Ps. 18:1). One of the most important decisions in our life is when we intentionally determine that our primary dream is to walk out the first commandment.

1I will love You, O LORD, my strength. (Ps. 18:1)

LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR MIND

We express love for God with our mind by putting things in our mind that inspire love for God instead things that diminish our capacity to love Him.

What we do with our mind affects our ability to receive and express love. We show love for God by taking time to fill our mind with His Word and refusing to feed our mind on lust (Job 31:1).

1“I have made a covenant with my eyes; why should I look upon a young woman?” (Job 31:1)

LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH (MK. 12:30)

We express love for God in the way we use our strength and natural resources (time, money, energy, talents, words, influence). We tend to use our strength first to increase our honor, comfort, influence, etc. God takes pleasure in the small things that His people do when they invest their strength in ways that express love for Him and help others to love Him (Heb. 6:10).

We love God with our strength as we do the things that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7): serving, giving (6:1-4, 19-21), praying (6:5-13), blessing, forgiving (5:44; 6:14), etc.

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LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR SOUL

We express loving God with our soul when we exert the emotional energy to realign our heart to base our identity on our relationship with God instead of accomplishments, recognition, etc.

Our identity is determined by how we define our success and value and by how we see ourselves.

Our primary success and identity are found in being ones whom God loves and who love God, confessing, “I am loved by God, and I am a lover of God; therefore, I am successful.”

When our identity is rooted in what we achieve and who applauds us, then we are more likely to burn out and to live in an “emotional storm” (by being too preoccupied with self). Therefore, we must often realign our thinking to agree with His love, truth, and investment in our lives.

How will our life look like if we love God wholeheartedly? What kind of love will we give to others...to our enemies? What kind of world are we going to have with this kind of expression? Think about that?