

## HOW TO LOVE GOD

**Mark 12:29-31** – *Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

- **“mind”** – denotes "the faculty of thinking;" and so, "the faculty of moral reflection;" also "imagination".
- **“strength”** – ability, force might. [Vine's says it describes the full extent of the power wherewith we are to love God.]

**Romans 5:5** – *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

**John 14:15** **[AMP]** – *If you [really] love Me, you will keep and obey My commandments.*

- **Obey** **[NT word]** – to listen attentively; to heed or conform to a command or authority. [Said of one who, on the knock at the door, comes to listen who it is and do what he says.]

**I John 4:7, 8, 11, 12** – *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ... <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

- Confess I Corinthians 13:4-8.

**John 21:15-17** – So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?*” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “*Feed My lambs.*” <sup>16</sup> He said to him again a second time, “*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?*” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “*Tend My sheep.*” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?*” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “*Feed My sheep.*”

**I Thessalonians 5:16-18** – Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- “**Rejoice**” – to be "cheer"ful, i.e. calmly happy or well-off.
- “**pray without ceasing**” – The Greek word here rendered **without ceasing** is used in secular literature to denote a man suffering from an intermittent cough—one that is not continuous, but occurs at intervals. Just as this individual has the tendency to cough, though does not always do so audibly, so the believer ought to remain in the attitude of prayer though not always praying audibly. [**KJV Study Bible Note**]
- “**in everything give thanks**”
  - **Ephesians 5:18-21** – And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another in the fear of God.

**Hebrews 11:6** – *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

**Proverbs 3:5, 6** – *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

- **“Trust”** – be secure, confident.
- **I John 5:14, 15** – *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

**Love God by listening & obeying, loving others, continually communicating with Him, an attitude of gratitude, and trusting Him.**