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Title : ALLmost

Does Jesus have all or ALLmost all of your heart, soul, mind and strength? Are you completely surrendered to Jesus right now? Is there sin in my life that you have not confessed? Does Jesus have your entire heart, soul, mind and strength? Are you just going through the motions right now? Are you experiencing God's power in your life? Are you excited to lead others to become fully devoted followers of Jesus?

The greatest commandment calls us to move from an almost-relationship to an All-in relationship with Jesus! It is a challenge we cannot afford to almost get right.

Scripture

Mark 12:30 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' (cf Matthew 22:37; Luke 10:27)

1. Love God with all Your Heart

How can we know God? The Bible says if you want to truly know God, you have to not only make Him the Master of your life, you have to love Him with all of your heart. Notice the Bible doesn't say almost love God with all your heart, it says ALL your heart.

Let me ask you this question, are you an ALLmost Christian? Are you finding it easy to keep back just one little area of your life to yourself? Maybe it is a sin that has you trapped. Maybe it is a relationship that you are not willing to let go. Maybe it is a job that constantly causes you to compromise. I know for me, the one area that I found it difficult to give up to God was...

Living a life that is ALLmost only makes us feel like a hypocrite and a failure. The reason is because God will constantly pursue us until we eventually give in. The difficulty that God has with us is directly related to how much we are going to hold on to a certain area that we won't let him have. If we have a tight grip on something, God has to pry it out of our hands first and this can be painful. The looser the grip we have on something, the easier it is for God to change our heart and soul.

Maybe for some of you, you have actually surrendered everything to God in the past and your life actually became more difficult so you gave up and started living "most" of your life for God again. You live a convenient Christian life because you only follow Jesus when it is easy. To fully experience the full life that Jesus offers, we have to give Him all of our heart and soul. We have to give him everything.

2. Love God with all Your Strength

Loving God with all of our strength is following through with what God asks us to do. It is not enough to love God with your heart, soul and mind and then not follow through with what God has asked them to do. Loving God with all of our strength involves actions. It involves obedience.

The greatest commandment is to love God with ALL of you. You cannot do this with your own will power. You can only obey this command by surrendering to God. Surrendering it ALL. It is as about humbling ourselves and saying to God, "I give ALL of myself to you because you know me better than I know myself."

Mark 12:30 (NIV) Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

So many of us have little corners of our lives that we keep to ourselves. We have a **do not enter** sign on our heart. We keep a **no trespassing zone** on our soul. We put a “**keep away**” sign on our mind. It seems that we all struggle with letting God take total control of our lives. We end up doing just enough to get by and then wonder why we only experience some of what God has to offer. We love God with ALLmost ALL of us. It shows up in so many ways.

Half-hearted worship.

Only showing up to youth services, LG, church when it is convenient

Never volunteering to serve or get involved

Only reading the Bible when we need something

Disrespecting our parents

Being greedy with our stuff

Inconsistent prayer life

Poor grades

I am going to stop listing things because I may miss your struggle and you will think you are fine. ☺

The second point is about loving God with all of your strength. ALL of your might..... ALL of you. Here we are talking about your Hands. It is one thing to say you love God in your heart, it is quite another to prove it with your actions. **Heart and Hands**. Do you see the progression? God doesn't just want our lip service. He wants our love for Him to show up in what we do.

What comes to mind when you think of strength? Big muscles? Tri-athlete? Staying up for several days? Someone fasting? Homerun hitters? Wrestler? Bully?

I have been hitting the gym. I used to hate the gym. I can't stand the gym. I don't like how it smells. I don't like the intimidation of others who are bigger than me. I have to guard my heart and eyes trying to avoid looking at people who barely wear clothes. I don't like how long it takes to see real results. Here's the thing though. I love being in shape so I endure the pain of waking up in the morning to get on a treadmill and lift weights. The first two weeks of getting to the gym are the most painful. I wake up almost everyday tired and sore. My muscles are like, “what have you done to us.” After a couple of weeks, I get into a groove and then I actually start enjoying the gym.

What if I told you how much I think working out and lifting weights will help my life. I told you all about the benefits of eating healthy and exercising. I told all my friends about the importance of being strong and healthy. I mean, I knew everything there was to know about nutrition and building muscle mass. However, I was overweight and you never saw me in the gym. You never saw me eating healthy foods.

What would you think about me? Would you think I was a hypocrite? Would you think I was inconsistent? I would say that I was ALLmost a weight lifter and someone who exercises. At least, I know about how to work out and how to eat healthy. At least, I had heart and head knowledge, but my hands had no knowledge of what it means to be ALL in. I would love the idea of being in shape with my heart, but not with my hands. My hands were not lifting weights. They were only lifting the next piece of cake to my mouth.

I don't think any of us would want to live this ALLmost existence in any area of our lives especially our lives Jesus.

Conclusion

How does this relate to our lives with Jesus? So many of us know who He is and what He means to us. We can talk all about it. We worship and love God with our heart, but our hands have such a hard time following through. We are so close to being ALL in, but **ALLmost isn't what Jesus wants from us.**

He wants ALL of us. What are some things in your life that you know you should be doing, but have failed to put into practice? If there are some areas that you have failed to follow through with then you are loving God with ALLmost all of your strength.

What if loving God with all of our strength was as simple as following through with what God asks us to do? It takes a ton of strength to obey God. It takes someone who is disciplined to act on what God wants. It takes someone with courage to take a risk and love God with all of their strength. Let me ask you this again. What if loving God with all of our strength was as simple as following through with what God asks us to do?

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NIV) says it this way, "Whatever your hands find to do, do it with ALL your might."

I Samuel 10:7b (NIV) says it this way, "Do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you."

There is something about knowing that you have a relationship with Jesus. If you love Him with all your heart, soul and mind, then you can be confident that whatever you decide to do will be successful because God is with you! Heart and Hands. Do you see the progression?

Most of you here do not have an issue with loving God with your heart. I think the struggle comes when we are asked to act on what God has done in our hearts. Loving God with all of your strength will show up in your hands. You will prove you love God with your actions. This is what it means to love Jesus with ALL of you!

So are you ALL in or ALLmost in?

Reflection

How many of you, who claim to follow Jesus, are ready to give Him everything? You are tired of an ALLmost life and want to go all in. Could you raise your hands? How many of you here would say that you have a difficult time following through? Could you raise your hand too? I would love to pray for you that God would give you the strength to follow through.

How many of you can't follow through because you have never started a relationship with Jesus? You have never asked Jesus to be the leader and Savior of your life. You know you need to make a change and you are ready to surrender your entire heart and soul to Him. Could you raise your hand? I would love to pray for you so you can start a relationship with Him right at this moment.