

**YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD  
WITH ALL YOUR HEART, ALL YOUR SOUL,  
AND ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**

**EP 8**

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

**LOVE  
ALL  
HEART  
SOUL  
STRENGTH**

Moses has just delivered the 10 Commandments to God's people and, in what must have been a lengthy address, he passes along other rules to follow too. It's a long list of decrees and regulations: How to handle other nations. Ways to be obedient. Where to offer sacrifices. What animals can and can't be eaten.

Moses knows that crossing into the Promised Land will have God's people rubbing elbows with cultures who don't honor God and meeting people who aren't interested in holiness. So Moses stresses the importance of obedience—and something more.

In the midst of proclaiming the rules, Moses also urges his listeners to have a *relationship* with God ... to wholeheartedly *love* God.

That's what God was really after: their hearts. He was looking for obedience that was not given out of obligation but motivated by love.

This was the message Moses had for the families—thousands of them—listening to him. And it's a message for your family too. God is hungry for you to love Him as thoroughly as He loves you, for you to focus on Him like He focuses on you.

That's a challenge when your family feels like a whirlwind of schoolwork, financial stresses, bedtimes, keeping kids fed, and coping with a job—or lack of a job. You're barely able to stay afloat, let alone find time for spiritual reflection.

It's easy to push God onto the back burner, to make your friendship with Him one of those "I'll-get-to-you-when-I-get-to-you" relationships. A birthday card and Christmas call sort of thing.

But Moses tells the throng of Israelites hanging on his words that God wants more. He's not content with just occasional acknowledgement or slivers of attention.

God is after our hearts. Our souls. Our strength. Our all.

This week you and your family will consider how to take a step closer to giving God what He wants. And as you do so, you'll discover that it's really what you want (and need!) too. It's in your deepening friendship with God that you'll find meaning in life—and comfort that calms the whirlwind. Welcome to a great week!