

HOW CAN I LOVE THE LORD?

Matthew 22:37

We invite you to our
GOSPEL MEETING

October 4-9, 2026

(Sunday-Friday)

Sunday – 10:50 and 6:00 pm

Monday-Friday – 7:30 pm

Bob Watson, of Athens, AL

will be our speaker

For more information: www.roseavenue.org

- Recently, while walking, I was listening to some sermons addressing evidences (esp. evolution vs. creation).
- Mentioned was a number of Christians who left home and lost their faith (more than 70% - some declaring atheism). Why? Because of evolution!

- He also mentioned a family who had remained faithful for generations. When asked how to help a family remain strong spiritually – the reply was, “Teach them to love the Lord”
- So today, let us answer the question:

HOW CAN I LOVE THE LORD?

Matthew 22:37

What Does It Mean to Love the Lord?

- **Matthew 22:37-40**
- Jesus taught this is the first and great commandment.
 Vs. 40 all the law hinges...
- **Mark 12:29**, same occasion refers it to **Deuteronomy 6:4-6** based on understanding there is only ONE God, YHWH.
- To Jews, this command is known as the Shema, based on the word, "Hear".
They got it!

What Does It Mean to Love the Lord?

- Loving the Lord is about honoring and respecting Him (**Hebrews 12:28-29**)
- It is about Him being THE priority!
- It is about total commitment to Him (TRUE discipleship)

What Does It Mean to Love the Lord?

- **Matthew 22:37-40**, Love the Lord...
- **With ALL** (entire, full quantity) **your heart**
- The heart is what defines who we are within.
- Out of it spring issues of life – **Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 12:34-35**
- This means He is at the center of every we are and do.

What Does It Mean to Love the Lord?

- **Matthew 22:37-40**, Love the Lord...
- **With ALL your soul**
- Our being, our existence
- Often used interchangeably with our spirit – one being life, the other our eternal being
- **Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7; Ecclesiastes 12:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:23**
- With everything living in you, you love and honor Him.
- He is the **REASON** for our being!

What Does It Mean to Love the Lord?

- **Matthew 22:37-40**, Love the Lord...
- **With ALL your mind**
- Where our thoughts develop. Our intellect, reasoning, wisdom, etc.
- This involves intentionality.
- He has captured not only our person, but even our thoughts **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**, cf. **Philippians 4:8** – meditate on these things!

What Does It Mean to Love the Lord?

- **Matthew 22:37-40**, Love the Lord...
- **With ALL your strength**
- Added in **Mark 12:28-31 & Luke 10:27**
- This is about surrendering our physical resources and abilities to Him.
Our talents, energies, etc.
- This is manifesting love in our actions –
**cf. 1 Corinthians 10:31,
1 John 3:18**

How can I love the Lord?

- **It has to be decision!**
- Not coerced, but from within!
- Both Jesus and Paul dealt with this dilemma. Many simply did NOT want to consider/submit to Jesus – despite miracles, prayers, reasoning and teaching!
- Why? Because forced obedience rarely works!
You may force submission, but the heart is not there.

How can I love the Lord?

- **It has to be decision!**
- We are commanded to love God. But can you really command an emotion?
Emotions come naturally, as a result of circumstances and one's heart.
- There are reasons you love those you love!
- **Romans 12:2** – be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- **Romans 10:10** – with the heart one believes...

How can I love the Lord?

- **Get to know God**
- This is about relationship.
- This is personal! God is a personal God – **Acts 17:26-28.**
- We are His children – **1 John 3:1**
- Unlike most deities through history, our Lord is personal and He cares about us – **1 Peter 5:7**
- **John 3:16, Romans 5:8** – He showed us how much!

How can I love the Lord?

- **Get to know God**
- He has revealed Himself to us –
1 Corinthians 2:9-11
- We learn of His interactions with man through the history of scripture – He cares!
- He wants relationship with us.

How can I love the Lord?

- **Get to know God**
- Learn what Biblical love is
- Let God define what genuine love is
- In our language, love can mean many things and this can lead to spiritual confusion
- Love is: *Caring enough to sacrifice for what is best.*
- It is best illustrated by what He has done and it is the focal point of every relationship we are in.

How can I love the Lord?

- **Get to know God – Biblical love**
- **1 John 4:16** – God Is LOVE
- **1 Jn. 4:17-19** – our love for Him is based on His love for us (we learn from His love).
- Our love is manifested in how we conduct ourselves – **1 Corinthians 13:1-8**

How can I love the Lord?

- **Pursue Holiness**
- Setting something apart as sacred. Sanctification, saints, etc. – same Greek word.
- **Hebrews 12:14** – pursue it
- **1 Peter 1:15-16** – holy in all your conduct
- We are striving to live pure lives (**Matthew 5:8**). Moral purity, separation.
- Getting rid of anything that hinders – **Hebrews 12:1**

How can I love the Lord?

- **Obey God's commands**
- We cannot separate our love from Him from obedience
- **John 14:15, 23** – if you love Me
- **1 John 5:3** – this IS the love of God
- Lip service is not acceptable – **James 1:21-23, 1 John 1:5-6**
- Many today seek to separate love from obedience (i.e., it is not necessary)

How can I love the Lord?

- **Obey God's commands**
- I will concede that our obedience OUGHT to be founded upon our love for Him.
- **1 John 4:19** – We love Him because He first loved us.
- To us - **1 John 5:3**, His commandments are not burdensome.

How can I love the Lord?

- **Spend time with Him**
- Worship – **John 4:24**
- Bible study – **2 Timothy 2:15**
- Prayer - **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**
- “Take time to be Holy”

How can I love the Lord?

- **Prefer God's people over the worldly**
- The more we love Him, the more we prefer to be with those who also love Him
- **We are brethren!** A family
- **Romans 12:10** – giving preference
- **Galatians 6:10** – especially our brethren.
- IF you want to learn how to love the Lord, spend time with those that have proven their love for Him.

How can I love the Lord?

- **Prefer Him over the world**
- Throughout life we are faced with choices. Which path will we choose?
- **1 John 2:15** – If anyone loves the world...
- **Matthew 6:24** – you cannot serve 2 masters!

How can I love the Lord?

- **Do good for others**
- The Christian life is one devoted to sharing and helping those we can.
- This is what being a godly example is about.
- **Matthew 22:39** – second only to serving God.
- **Philippians 2:3-4** – thinking about others over ourselves.
- This includes sharing His word –
Philippians 2:15

How can I love the Lord?

- **Keep the fire burning**
- Sadly, in time, many relationships begin to burn out. That is because we did not take the time to make it better.
- Learning to love the Lord is not instantaneous. It is a journey (lifelong). It takes time to grow as it is nurtured.
- Build on your faith – **2 Peter 1:5-10**

How can I love the Lord?

- **Keep the fire burning**
- If we fail to keep going
 - **Hebrews 2:1** – lest we drift
 - **Hebrews 10:36-39** – you have need of endurance
 - **Revelation 2:2-4** – they had left their first love
 - **Galatians 6:9** – let us not grow weary in doing good... We CANNOT give up!

Concluding thoughts

- These are reminders of our need to love the Lord and what we can do to kindle and maintain that love.
- It is NOT something we keep to ourselves. Others NEED to see this love – it is how it will spread and be preserved.

**Do you love the Lord as
you ought to?**

Matthew 22:37

