

HEART & SOUL

DEUTERONOMY 10:12 “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your **HEART & SOUL.**”

In the Old Testament, God established Israel as His people based on the promise He made to Abraham (Genesis 17:6-8). However, the children of Abraham became slaves in Egypt (Exodus 1:11-14). They were slaves for four hundred years, and God’s heart was moved that the children of Abraham were suffering (Exodus 2:24-25). God raised Moses, and through him the Lord saved the people of Israel from slavery and were given the Promised Land as a home for them. After God saved them from slavery and promised them a home, God gave them a requirement. From then on, because they have been saved by God’s grace, they “*should fear (honor) the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your HEART & SOUL.*”

In the New Testament, God established the Church to be His people and has placed Jesus Christ as our head and Lord (Colossians 1:18). The word “Church” comes from the ancient Greek word *kuriakon*, which literally means, “belonging to the Lord,” every one who receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is saved from spiritual slavery and now belongs to the Lord. When a person is born again (John 3:3), they are born into God’s household (John 1:12) which is the Church. The experience of salvation is just the beginning of our life in Christ. Just like the people of Israel, God has saved us by His grace and now, He wants us to *fear (honor) the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your HEART & SOUL.*” Now that we are saved, we will learn what it means to honor, live for, love and serve God, as His people. **HEART & SOUL.**

Heart and Soul are two aspects of our in our life that are considered the seat of who we truly are. The word *heart* occurs over one thousand times in the Bible, making it the most common anthropological term in the Scripture. The heart denotes a person’s center for both physical and emotional-intellectual-moral activities. While, the *soul* is the human soul is the part of a person that is not physical. It is, together with the *spirit*, the part of every human being that lasts eternally after the body experiences death. The Hebrew people understand soul (the word, *nepesh*) as the life in our bodies; without the soul, the body would die and decompose.

Whenever we find the words, “heart & soul” in the Bible, it always denotes **absolute** and **radical devotion**. The words “radical” and “devotion” are two of the scariest words, because *radical* almost always denotes extremism; and whenever we hear *devotion* it is used to almost always connote blind loyalty. In our main scripture (Deuteronomy 10:12), God uses the words, heart & soul as a way to make us understand that **He demands radical devotion from His people**. When it comes to God, there is no such thing as half-committed or a middle ground. One is either radically devoted to Him and His Church, or not. Our salvation is free, but it was costly. Jesus’ death on the cross secured our freedom from spiritual slavery. He bought us out of our shackled past, our spiritual Egypt, and brought us into freedom, our spiritual promised land! We now belong to Jesus. He is our Lord; our new owner; our new King and we have become willing royal citizens of His glorious Kingdom, the Church. Submitting to His lordship puts a claim on our lives; we belong to Him, which means, no scheme or curse of the enemy has any power over us. We are blessed in Him (Ephesians 1:3). He is worthy of our surrender and our love (Revelation 5:10-12). A person who has truly experienced forgiveness, grace, freedom and salvation in Christ WILL willingly and unconditionally submit to His Lordship! Because He is worthy, we **CHOOSE** to be absolutely, unconditionally and radically devoted to Jesus Christ and His Church. His vision for His church is now our vision and priority! We give ourselves to praise His name and fully pursue the work of His Kingdom.

We pledge our allegiance to Jesus by honoring Him, living in a way that pleases him, and to love him and serve him with all of our **HEART & SOUL.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- LEADERS LAB, a new equipping and development time for DG Leaders (and trainees), December 4 (7:00PM)!
- Team Night (November 26, 5:30PM)
- Dream Team Christmas Gala (December 22, 7:00PM)

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- Strength, wisdom and effectiveness of our NYC Missions Team.
- Deeper radical devotion to our Lord and Savior, Jesus, and unconditional commitment to His Church at Mosaic.
- Future vision and plans of our Church.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

To pledge our allegiance to Jesus by honoring Him, living in a way that pleases him, and to love him and serve him in His Church with all of our **HEART & SOUL.**

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

What comes to mind when you hear the word, radical?

What does the word, devotion mean to you?

Have you or anyone you know ever been a part of a radical group?

What qualities of a leader makes you submit to their authority?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

Questions:

What does God requires of Israel? (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

Why would the LORD require such from His people (Deuteronomy 10:14-15)?

What does it mean to give ourselves "heart & soul" to Jesus and His church? (Romans 12:1-2, 4-8)

Why is Jesus inseparable from His local church? (Colossians 1:18)

Why is our motive for serving God crucial? What can happen when our motives are wrong?

What should motivate us for devoting ourselves radically and unconditionally to Jesus and His church? (Titus 3:4-8)

If Jesus is truly worthy in our hearts, and if His message of salvation is crucial for ALL people to hear, what should we prioritize in our life?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

Question:

What are some ways you can grow in your devotion to Jesus and His church?

What is your motivation for being part of the ministry?

Can you name some people in your life whom you should be leading to Jesus in the next three months?

How can you treasure Christ more and grow in your life of worship?