

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25

WITH ALL MY HEART

The phrase "with all your heart" or "my heart" can be found throughout God's Word. We may read over it quickly without giving too much thought to what ALL really means. One definition of this idiom is with great willingness or pleasure; also, with the deepest feeling or devotion.

One reference God makes in regard to this phrase is we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength (Deuteronomy 6:5). In ancient Hebrew every letter is both a sound and a picture. The Hebrew word that means "all" means complete or everything. The Hebrew word picture for heart tells us that the heart is what controls the inside.

Therefore, to love the Lord our God with all our heart can't be done on our own strength or ability. It is a matter of who it is that controls everything within us. When Christ controls everything (our mind, soul, and spirit) it is His love residing within us that enables that kind of love and the expression of it to be complete, to be able to give everything. That must be firmly established and operating in our lives before we can carry out some of the other "all my hearts."

David told the Lord that he would praise Him with ALL his heart and honor His name forever (Psalm 86:12). It is impossible for us to do that unless the One to whom we praise and honor controls ALL our heart. Our own attempts will be just feeble and weak.

Another with all my heart is found in Psalm 9:1. "I will thank Yahweh with ALL my heart; I will declare all Your wonderful works." We can be grateful for Christ's forgiveness of our sins but until we've surrendered ALL and made Him LORD of ALL, we cannot declare His wondrous works done in and through us with overflowing grateful hearts. It is only as His ongoing works are occurring that the crescendo of a grateful heart builds.

As Christ has all and is in control of ALL and as His wondrous works are accomplished in and through us, we learn that without any hesitation we can do the next ALL. Trust in the LORD with ALL our hearts and no longer rely on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). Where are you at in your ALL'S? That first and important step starts with our total surrender, denying self, taking up our cross and following Christ.