

apr 22

"you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." matt 22:37 that's the greatest commandment. God doesn't want just a "piece" of us. not just a few hours on a sunday or a wednesday. He wants it all. He wants to dominate your thoughts and desires.

psalm 37:4 says, "He shall give you the desires of your heart." i don't believe that means He will give us all "we want". i believe it means He will put His desires in our heart. the desire to please Him, to obey Him, to know Him. to known even as we have been known.

i have often spoken of intimacy. God speaks of a man and a woman becoming one flesh. that how close they are; how intimate they are. that's what God want with us. not a oneness in the flesh, but in the spirit. it is only an unselfish love that will get us there. the apostle paul attempts a brief description of that love below.

"though i speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, i have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

and though i have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,

and though i have all faith, so that i could remove mountains, but have not love, i am nothing.

and though i bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though i give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

love never fails."

1 corinthians 13:1-8

our flesh instinctively seeks to guard from being wounded. we put up barriers we hope will serve as protection. and well they might. but have you ever heard the term "no pain - no gain"? might that apply in the spiritual as well as the flesh? we suffer the pain to know the love. knowing love is knowing God.

even now i know those people who are pouring out their lives in service to others. they have made their needs and desires subservient to another. that is love manifested. i remember so well the night my mother died and i heard God whisper to my heart. "if you don't do it in love, it doesn't mean anything."

nothing we do without love means anything. as the apostle paul spoke so well, even to the burning of our bodies. i have heard it said that it was not nails that held Jesus to the cross. it was love. He did not have to shout. even a whisper would have summoned those twelve legion of angels to His rescue. but He did not. "as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth." isa 53:7

loving others begins by loving God. "love will cover a multitude of sins." 1 pet 4:8 the love of Jesus covered the sins of all who would believe. john 3:16 is famous for the words, "God so loved the world". i think world might have better been translated "humanity". He loved us all. He loved me. He loved you.

science is even now beginning to explore the "folding" of time and space. this is nothing new to our God. hebrews 12 says one day the heavens and earth will be folded up like as cloak and perish. and what will follow? "i saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." rev 21:1

"I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me diligently will find Me. riches and honor are with Me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and My revenue than choice silver. I traverse the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love Me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries." prov 8:17-21

this is the inheritance of those who choose to love
God.