

WHOLEHEARTEDLY

WOW -- now there's a big word if ever we saw one -- 14 letters long -- and it simply means, according to the dictionary -- *"To do something with all your energy or enthusiasm"* -- or, to give it your very best!

This word could describe how you handle your job -- or, how you apply yourself to any position you may hold -- or, to get more personal, how you treat your spouse and family members -- or, to get much more personal, your relationship with God.

Do you get up in the morning with joy in your heart determined to make the most of every situation? To be friendly and helpful with every person you come in contact with? To put it simply, to do the very best job possible -- whether anyone is looking, or if anyone even knows you did it.

There's a beautiful verse in the Bible that says, *"With my Whole Heart I have sought God"* (Psalm 119:10) -- now, we're getting down to something very important -- our relationship with the Living God of Creation!

The Psalmist goes on to repeat this thought several times in the same Psalm -- *"Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the Whole Heart"* (vs. 2). *"I will put it into practice with the Whole Heart"* (vs. 34). *"I will keep your Commandments with My Whole Heart"* (vs. 69). *"I cry out with my Whole Heart -- Hear me, O Lord! I will keep Your Word"* (vs. 145).

In Prayer, in reading His Word, in seeking to do His Will, can you say, I have tried my very best, with my Whole Heart, to find You? Only then you will learn to Love Him with your Whole Heart.

We should apply this Wholehearted approach in every phase of our lives -- to be honest and sincere with our spouses and children, our employers and employees -- in fact, in every business dealing large or small.

The Psalmist also uses these words this way, *"I will Praise the Lord with my Whole Heart"* (Psalm 111:1), simply put -- I will put my everything in my Praise and Adoration to the Lord God -- because He is Worthy!

In the Book of Jeremiah the Lord gave him this promise, *"I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord -- and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their Whole Heart"* (Jeremiah 24:7).

And, King David promised the Lord, *"I will Praise You, O Lord, with my Whole Heart"* (Psalm 9:1). Can we, today, repeat this same promise? Do we have this same relationship with the God of Creation? Are we Wholeheartedly given to Him?

Let's look at the title of this article once more -- this time regarding our spouse and children. How is our relationship with those who are the closest to us? Do we put our all, our very best, into our personal intimate family? Are they on the top of our list for attention and service? Do we go out of our way to let them know exactly how important they are to us?

When we really consider this, it is so easy and worth our while to give of ourselves to God and those most important to us -- not out of duty or necessity, but out of our sincere love. When we love the Lord -- Wholeheartedly -- we will love our family in the same way.

Our Prayer should be, *"Dear Lord, I want to know You with my Whole Heart. May my every act of Worship, my Prayer, my time in Your Word, all be Wholeheartedly done for Your Glory, Amen."*

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*For more information contact -- Pastor Bruce R. Burke --*

## **OPEN BIBLE MINISTRIES**

*Lake Ariel, PA 18436 -- Phone 570-698-7890*

*Email [openbiblemin@verizon.net](mailto:openbiblemin@verizon.net) -- Web [www.obmworthital.org](http://www.obmworthital.org)*