

# Give God 100%

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“And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross daily [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me].”  
Luke 9:23 AMP

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Most people treat God like a genie or an accessory they only use on Sunday’s. Some give Him parts of their lives, but reserve the other parts for their own way of doing things. God wants to be a part of every part of your life. He wants that intimate relationship with you. He wants to reveal what He created you for. He wants to show you why He put you together the way He did. He wants to heal & restore you from your past. He wants you to be confident He hears you & in how much He loves you. He wants you to live life & live it abundantly!

## What is Surrendering to God?

[“Spiritual surrender is an act of faith, keeping hope alive by choosing defeat over death. It is the first act for those coming to salvation, and a continual habit of those walking with Christ. To spiritually surrender means to let go of control and trust God.”]

We tend to limit God in our lives by placing people or things ahead of Him in our lives (Idols), by only giving Him control in certain parts of our lives, or by feeding our fleshly desires over our spiritual appetites.

“So submit to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you. Come close to God [with a contrite heart] and He will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; and purify your [unfaithful] hearts, you double-minded [people]. Humble yourselves [with an attitude of repentance and insignificance] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [He will lift you up, He will give you purpose].”  
James 4:7-8, 10 AMP

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What It Means To Surrender To God And How To Do It

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The Bible is really clear about choosing sides.

1. *Idols*
  2. *Selective Reverence*
  3. *Carnal Appetites*
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“...Choose ye this day whom you will serve.” Or in James 4:4, people who try have one foot in the world are likened to unfaithful wives. “Do you not know that being the world’s friend [That is loving the things of this world] is being God’s enemy. We serve an all or nothing kind of God. He loved us enough to send Jesus in our place to die for the consequences of our sins in place of us. Sin leads to death and separation from God. He is holy. He can’t dwell in uncleanness. I’m giving y’all tough love right now because for years I was lukewarm. It had me questioning God, feeling frustrated, anxious & unfulfilled; but once I gave everything to God & I mean everything, He gave me that peace He promises, a wholeness & contentment with just Him, & aligned me to His will for my life. I now have an intimacy with Him in which I can hear from Him, operate in my spiritual gifts & be sensitive to His presence.

The world programs us to do the opposite of what God says. We rely in horoscopes to tell us how we act or how our day will go instead of God. We want to follow God’s word like rules instead of allowing God to change us from the inside out by surrendering everything to Him. We create our own plans for how we see our lives going. Most of us make our own plans and then expect God to bless them. As I always say, God is a gentleman He won’t come in and fix anything uninvited.

Trust me. I know You don’t know every detail of God’s plan for you, so it is scary to trust what is uncertain, but we wouldn’t need Faith if we knew all the answers. If you know the word to be true then you know the word says in Jeremiah 29:11 that God gives us a future and hope. He knows the plans He has for us and they are to prosper us!

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## Idols

Idols are anything that present a challenge to God’s sovereignty or to which you turn to answers of meaning, fulfillment, and purpose instead of God.

“[An idol is] anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, and anything that you seek to give you what only God can give.”

Tim Keller, Counterfeit God

## What Does the Bible Say About Idols?

“You shall have no other gods before me.” **Exodus 20:3 NIV**

“Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them.”

**Jonah 2:8 NIV**

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” **Colossians 3:5 ESV**

“Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.” **Galatians 4:8 ESV**

“I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me,” **Isaiah 45:5 ESV**

## How Can I Tell If I Have An Idol?

**“If I could just \_\_\_\_\_, then I’ll be happy.”**

**Finding your worth, identity, or value in something.**

**Life without it would make you feel empty or like something is missing.**

**It consumes your thoughts even when you are away from it.**

**Feeling like having it gives you purpose or meaning in life.**

**It has a big influence on your self esteem or how you see yourself.**

**You schedule everything around it. Even time with God.**

**You ignore other parts of yourself for it.**

**You put your faith in it. You run to it when you need comfort or a distraction.**

**You plan your life around it.**

**You’re Willing to Compromise Your Beliefs For It.**

**It Pulls you away From God.**

I know what you’re thinking, so am I lol we as people in a fallen world are constantly seeking fulfillment, but as a Christian we know God is the only one that can fulfill that void we try to fill with everything else. But it’s important to understand all sides of God most of us grew up knowing all the things not to do & what God doesn’t like. No matter what sin or idols have entered your life, the fact still remains God is GOOD. He is faithful. He loves you beyond understanding. He wants a relationship with you. He created you & called you. He’s forgiving, merciful, loving and full of grace. So never think you are far gone or be ashamed of the things you learn you’ve been doing. Have grace on yourself because His grace is sufficient for you. This is why we are learning. He just wants to help you build a better life but sis, the beginning is the roughest. TRUST ME.

With that being said, God gave us things & people. He came so we lived life abundantly. He gave us every GOOD thing in our lives to enjoy! James 1:17 says every good & perfect thing comes from God. Every good thing, even before you started realizing just how much God is operating in your life has been from Him. That means He abundantly blessed us even when we didn't deserve it. God's so kind & I often meditate that fact. He gave us our kids, husbands, families, our minds, our money our jobs etc. & we are to be taking care of all of it. He just wants to be the forefront in your life because, let's be honest with Him you can love all the people and things in your life better than you do on your own. He wants you to get the full meaning out of the things He gives us. He put them in your life for a reason so let Him show you why. For more on this read the article I sent you guys!

## Selective Reverence

I made this term up lol, but it best explains what we do that can get in the way of our relationship with God. **Selective** meaning you choose which parts you want to apply and ignore the ones you don't. **Reverence** refers to honoring God's statutes and what He says to be true. Some people pick and choose what statutes they follow completely & ignore or make excuses for the ones they don't want to give to God to be delivered from. God can't abide where it's unclean. A friend to the world is an enemy to God. James 4:4 You can't choose what parts of the Bible to apply to your life. It's either all of it or none at all. God is faithful to forgive.

John 15:1-8 says dependence on God produces fruit. Those who remain in God are pruned to become more fruitful. You can't bear the fruit of the spirit unless you abide in Him. Those without fruit either never truly believed or are unproductive disciples. 15:9 says "...if you keep my commandments you will abide in my love." Obedience is in response to how much we love & honor God.

## So How Do We Fix This?

We need to adopt a lifestyle of repentance. With the Holy Spirit living in you, you will notice there are things you used to indulge in that you no longer can do comfortably. This is what happens when you admit your wrongs, give it to God, & start walking in the spirit daily. (Galatians 5:16-17, Ephesians 5:8) God isn't looking for outward perfection. He is seeking Hearts & Minds willing to give their all to Him. He looks at your heart posture. God is faithful to forgive us of the things we admit to Him. The real problem is Unrepentant sin. Those areas of

your life mean you think you know better than God. This refers to the sins you won't give up or won't even admit are sins. We downplay them as habits. It is the things you do repeatedly & don't feel convicted of. Either you believe all of what God says or none at all.

“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” Proverbs 28:13 ESV

Like I said, God knows your heart. If you are truly sorry for your sin & you know God's way is best, He is faithful to forgive. If you keep doing this sin with no restraint, you have to look at yourself in an honest way. True repentance exacts change. It won't happen overnight, but you will no longer be able to do it without feeling uncomfortable. That's how you know you are walking in the spirit. God continues to remind us, strengthen us, & change us when we honestly bring these things to Him.

A lot of people try to consciously change their actions in their own strength. This is impossible. The only way to conquer sinful behavior is by the strength the Holy Spirit gives us. I am by no means saying self control isn't part of it, only that you can't change unless you allow God to meet you where you are. This is why spending time with God is so important. You must renew your mind with how God's word says to live. Continuing to feed your spirit & starve your flesh.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” John 15:4 ESV

“the mind of the flesh [with its sinful pursuits] is actively hostile to God. It does not submit itself to God's law, since it cannot, for if you are living according to the [impulses of the] flesh, you are going to die. But if [you are living] by the [power of the Holy] Spirit you are habitually putting to death the sinful deeds of the body, you will [really] live forever.”

Romans 8:7, 13 AMP

**Carnal Appetites**

**YOLO!**

I don't even have to explain this. Y'all know what this means. People constantly make decisions as if there will be no consequences without thought or restraint . The world constantly praises living in the moment, making bad decisions because we only live "once". We as believers will live twice. We need to make decisions and live a life in reverence to God because His word is literally the manual for everything He created. It's the manual to give us life, & live it more abundantly. His way gives us peace, wholeness, & prospers us. He died to set us free from a life of sin, not for us to remain victims to it. People can be saved & claim to be Christians, but the Bible says " you will know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16-20) & " Faith without works is dead" (James 2:14-26) meaning you will know a true believer by their actions , words, & mindset. You can't change any of that on your own. Once you truly surrender to God, He gives you a renewed mind. You become a "new creature" in Christ once you accept Him & your "old man" passes away.( 2 Corinthians 5:14-21) The Holy Spirit is what empowers us to walk by the spirit. You will begin to notice how much you give in to your own appetites. You will learn to starve your flesh & feed your spirit. The stronger your spirit becomes, the easier it is to starve your fleshly appetites.

"For those who are living according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh [which gratify the body], but those who are living according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit [His will and purpose]. Now the mind of the flesh is death [both now and forever—because it pursues sin]; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace [the spiritual well-being that comes from walking with God—both now and forever];"

Romans 8:5-6 AMP

## What is A Carnal Mind?

[If someone is **carnally minded** it means they are operating from their flesh. The flesh is selfish, rebellious, and prideful. Therefore, a carnal person struggles with impure thoughts, believing God's promises, and sin. Ultimately, a carnal person hasn't died to their carnal nature and they aren't allowing God's spirit to guide them into purity and freedom. ]

[The word “carnally” in the Bible points to people that feed into selfish desires **Or individuals** that go through life trusting their own self effort more than God’s power. The carnal mind is usually consumed with the flesh and worldly things. A carnal Christian is insecure, jealous, lustful, prideful, fearful, manipulative, legalistic, hypocritical, etc. But, **God doesn’t want anyone to live with those negative thoughts and bad behaviors!**]

## How Do We Know If We Are Carnal Minded?

- Excessive Desire & Focus on Earthly Things
  - Not Trusting God
  - Hearers Not Doers
  - Unrepentant Sin
  - Lover of Pleasure
    - Controlling
      - Lustful
      - Fearful
      - Prideful
      - Anger
    - Selfishness
- Never Satisfied With What You Have
  - Unforgiving

## What Fixes A Carnal Mind?

### **SURRENDER!**

Think about it. Everything you’ve tried to do in your own power never seemed to fulfill your expectations. We wish for things, get them & still complain. We want things so badly, we settle. We try different people, ways, & things to fix our problems, but nothing seems to work. We constantly seek things to distract us to cover up the hurt we cause ourselves & the hurt others cause us. WHY? Because what you are truly seeking is God.

He is the only one who has the key to living life abundantly & fully with Him at the center. We need to humble ourselves. God knows best. Be Honest. You have no idea what your doing! You can't fix you. Let go of it all & Let God. God is beautiful. You give God your bad habits, fear, pain, disappointment, broken hearts, anxiety, shame, sadness, depression etc. & God gives you a new heart & a new spirit! He promises us a life of joy & peace. Every time you repent, He forgets your sins. (Isaiah 43:25) Literally. You remember Jeremiah 29:11!

[To renew our mind, we need to drop human pride and accept the blood shed by Christ to free us from our carnal nature. Without Jesus Christ we are a PRISONER to sin and the Devil. Fortunately, the blood of Christ is powerful enough to free us from Satan's jail and helps us to end patterns of sin, bad relationships, and bad habits.]

## How To

1. **Focus on What Is Right in Gods Eyes! Philippians 4:8**
2. **Build Scripture in your memory that combats your flesh.**
3. **Be open and honest with God about what you struggle with.**
4. **Surround yourself with like minded people.**
5. **Develop a lifestyle of repentance.**
6. **Begin/End your day with God.**
7. **Earnestly Seek God for healing.**
8. **FAST!**
9. **Guard your heart, mind, eyes, & ears.**
10. **Watch What you say.**

Daniels, C. (2022, January 20). *Carnally minded: 7 biblical tips to purity!* ADORNED HEART. Retrieved February 10, 2022, from <https://www.adornedheart.com/4-ways-to-defeat-unwanted-thoughts-15-bible-verses/>

## Things To Remember

- **Remember conviction is from the Holy Spirit, condemnation is the enemy.**  
**Romans 8:1**
- **No matter what, there's nothing that can separate you from the Love of God.**
- **God is faithful to forgive us of all your sins every time you sin.**  
**(If repentance is honest & you turn from it)**



- Repent means to be truly sorry, admit we are wrong & Gods way is right, & to turn from it.
- Fasting is a necessary part of the Christian walk.
- We are not meant to do this walk alone! Reach out! People struggle with the same things you do. People have healed from things you need help from.

**Community is important to God. James 5:16 Matthew 18:20**

**“As iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens [and influences] another [through discussion].”Proverbs 27:17 AMP**

- God is not expecting a perfect religious rule book way of living, He wants to give you a heart & mind focused on righteousness, Love for Him, & Genuine walking in the spirit.