HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH

The Shema (Deut. 6:4) is the heart of Jewish faith today, inscribed on every doorpost and recited daily. Indeed, it was also the heart of the faith that Jesus sought to inculcate in His followers, noting that it is the foundation of salvation (Matt. 22:34–40). It is fitting that this faith statement is all about the heart itself.

Loving the Lord with all your heart, soul, and strength is not just a random collection of three elements of the body, but actually encompasses all of life! Moses explains the meaning of each element in the successive verses. In Hebrew, the word for heart is lebab, which refers to the will, the mind, the emotions, and the inner person. This is the center of relationship and choice. Loving the Lord with all your heart means, at the very least, memorizing God’s word and always having it in your thoughts (v. 6). It means teaching God’s word and a love relationship with Him to your children, and talking about it all day long!

The Hebrew word for soul, nephesh, is often translated “life,” and refers to the whole person, everything you do and say and see and experience. To love the Lord with all your soul means that you live differently because you follow God (vv. 7, 8). You talk about God all day long, and you do and see everything through the lens of God’s word. Loving the Lord with all your strength uses the word khayil, which is often translated as “army,” but here probably refers to wealth and possessions. In all you buy, and all you own, you are to live as through the focus of loving God. This is why you think of your doorposts and your gates as being emblazoned with God’s word (v. 9).
Write out Deuteronomy 6:4–25 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you are pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 6:4–9. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Deuteronomy 6:4–25. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How have you seen natural and logical consequences to sin in your own life?

What practical steps can you take to remember your love for God all throughout the day?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut04-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How can you pass on the legacy of your relationship with God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut04-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Matthew 22:34–40
Deuteronomy 11:13–25
1 Samuel 16:1–13
Jeremiah 31:31–34
Psalm 40:6–8
1 John 4:7–21

What other verses come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 6?

Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 6:4–25.
Where do you see Jesus in Deuteronomy 6:4–25?

Where do you need to grow in your appropriation of God's love to your own heart?

What is Jesus saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut04-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut04-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What are the blessings that God has given you, both material and spiritual?

How can we manifest in our lives that we serve God alone?

What are some practical ways to love God with heart, soul, and strength?

What are some ways that we can make sure we see and do everything through the lens of our love for God?

In what ways might you pass on this love relationship you have with God to your children/future children, or friends and family?

How have you seen love leading to changes in your behaviors?

How can we combat legalism in our own lives and in our church?