

## 8. Be Wholehearted

The word wholeheartedness leaves no stone unturned, so to speak. It brings to mind a sense of thoroughness and totality. But wholeheartedness also relates to an attitude of enthusiasm with which a thorough job is completed.

Chuck Swindoll states, “Few indeed are the people who finish what they start – and do a complete job of it...the rare but beautiful experience of carrying out a responsibility to its completion. When you have accomplished and thoroughly fulfilled a task, there is a feeling of satisfaction that cannot be expressed in words. So what are you waiting for? Does it need painting? Paint it and do a thorough job! Does it need cleaning? Clean it-thoroughly! Does it need ironing? Iron it – wrinkle free with gusto! Does it need attention? Give it thorough, unrestrained attention! Stop being satisfied with a half-hearted, incomplete job! Stun those around you with a thorough, finished product! AND STOP PUTTING IT OFF!”

We can also view wholeheartedness through the lens of our relationship with and our approach to God. In Mark 12:28-34, in response to the Pharisees questioning, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, literally our whole being.

Anything but a wholehearted love for God that encompasses all of one’s being and every area of one’s life falls short of God’s will and our need if we are to be all that we were designed to be. Otherwise, we will be self-indulgent rather than choosing to live for God and others. Echoing the words of Chuck Swindoll above, in regards to living wholeheartedly for God, STOP PUTTING IT OFF!”

### Be Wholehearted Daily Quiet Times

Date	Week 8
9-Jul	1 Samuel 16:7
10-Jul	Jeremiah 24:7
11-Jul	Matthew 6:20-21
12-Jul	Psalms 44:20-21
13-Jul	Jeremiah 17:9-10
14-Jul	Jeremiah 29:11-14
15-Jul	1 Chronicles 28:9

# Be Wholehearted

## PART 1

### Passage(s) to Study

Half-heartedness and apathy produce bad attitudes and mediocre results. When we don't respect our own commitment level, others will not either. God calls His children to be wholehearted and committed to excellence. When we do our best for God, we maximize our influence on others, we produce quality work, and we yield a reward back from God. As believers, we need to stop the apathy. Live and love God with all your heart.

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 25 and write down 5-10 observations that you make about how Amaziah obeyed God and what the consequences were. In light of verse 2, how might Amaziah's reign as king turned out differently had he obeyed with all his heart?

## PART 2

### Questions to Ponder

**[Q]** Loving God with your whole heart is the key to everything in life; because your relationship with God affects everything and everyone in your life. From the following verses write down what God is looking for from His children.

**Read:** Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 10:12-13; Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:28-34

**[Q]** How do we show wholeheartedness to God? What are the thoughts that stick out to you from Psalms 119:2, 10, 34, 58, 69, and 145? Why don't we see more people put their whole hearts into their endeavors? What does God think about half-heartedness? (See Mal. 1:6-14)

**[Q]** Are there seasons in your life when you have sought wholeheartedly to know God? If so, how did that pursuit change your relationship with Him? How did other aspects of your life change? Are you currently living wholeheartedly for God? Why or why not?

**[Q]** What do Psalms 86:11, Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 29:13-14, 1 Corinthians 10:31, and Colossians 3:22-23 instruct us about where our heart focus needs to be? Summarize in your own words.

**For further study:** When it comes to being wholehearted we should follow the example of Hezekiah. Unlike Amaziah, Hezekiah pursued God wholeheartedly. Make 5-10 observations from Hezekiah's life in 2 Kings 18:1-6 and 2 Chronicles 29, 31:20-21.

## PART 3

### Making it Stick

**Write out 1-2 of the main things that God impressed upon you this week from your time reading the daily devotions on being wholehearted.**

**Write out in your own words a prayer to God asking him for a heart that is wholly committed to Him for a lifetime. A sample has been provided below:**

**Prayer:** *O God, please deliver me from half-hearted living so that I may love you with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. Please create in me a heart that is wholly devoted to you and a single-mindedness for your glory. Please show me how I can love you more. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

**Recommended resources:** *'Loving God'* by Charles Colson