



# NEXT

FALL FOCUS 2017

October 15, 2017

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## ***Grow in Love for God and Others***

Mark 12:28-32a

### **Introduction**

#### **1. The Goal of the Spiritual Life**

“<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher.” (Mark 12:28-32a, ESV)

#### **2. Our Hangup**

“<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, ESV)

### **3. A Self-Evaluation**

Rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates the statement does *not* describe me well and 5 indicates the statement *does* describe me well.

1. I feel a lot of love and affection for God.
2. My lifestyle reflects my love and gratitude for what Jesus has done for me.
3. When I think of God, I can quickly think of attributes/characteristics that are compelling and worthy of my love.
4. I find that, generally, God enables me to forgive people who have hurt me.
5. I rejoice when good things happen to others.
6. I demonstrate love equally toward people of all races or cultural backgrounds.
7. I enjoy giving and sacrificing for others.
8. I regularly give of my time in order to help others.

(From *the Next Devotional Guide*, p. 41)

(For further reading on this topic, consider the *Life You've Always Wanted* by John Ortberg, especially chapter 2)

### **Digging Deeper**

During our Fall Focus use the devotional guide for your daily scripture readings.