

## Greatest Commandment

Deuteronomy consists of a series of farewell messages from Moses. It is addressed to the new generation destined to possess the Land of Promise—those surviving the forty years of wilderness wandering.

### Deuteronomy 1:6-11

#### No more status quo!

- Time for change
- Time for progress (been walking in circles aimlessly long enough)
- Time for taking what belongs to you—Land of Promise
  - **Romans 14:17**, "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness** and **peace** and **joy** in the Holy Spirit."
  - **Righteousness** is the ability to stand in the presence of God as if you have never sinned. **Proverbs 28:1**, "The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion." **2 Corinthians 5:21**, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
  - **Peace** is greatest gift from God. Nothing beats peace. **Philippians 4:6-7**, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
  - **Joy** is the strengthening presence of God. Happiness is the goal of every person. Joy is supernatural and not determined by one's present circumstances. **Nehemiah 8:10**, "for the joy of the LORD is your strength." **1 Peter 1:6-9**, "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls."
- Your best days are ahead of you.

### Deuteronomy 6:1-9

- Consistently walking in the ways of God brings consistent blessings from God.
- Consistency is the key. Consistency begins with church participation.
- Hearing and doing! **John 14:15**, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." **1 John 5:2-3**, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."
- Everyday life provides teachable moments. We have the responsibility and privilege of teaching our children the ways of God.
- Loving God entirely is the greatest commandment. Love is action. We love God emotionally, by giving our time and talent, by serving others and giving our money cheerfully.

### Deuteronomy 6:10-12

- Loving God entirely brings supernatural favor and provision.
- Never forget that God has blessed you more than you deserve!

**Mark 12:28-31—Jesus reaffirmed that Loving God and Loving Others is the Greatest Commandment**

**1 John 4:7-19**

- Consistency is the key. Your walk with God begins on Sunday, but is lived out the rest of the week.
- It doesn't matter much what you and your family learn at church, unless it is validated and reinforced by how you live your everyday life.
- Love is not fearful. Love seeks to embrace, to give, to share and to include.
- Fear seeks to exclude, to horde, to protect and to blame.
- A hug is the posture of faith and love. A clenched fist or a finger pointed is the posture of hatred and fear.
- Our love for God is most genuinely demonstrated in our love for others!
- Perfect love casts out fear.
- The way of love is the way of blessing.
- The blessed life walks on the path of love—loving God and loving others.