



AUTO-SERMON TRANSCRIPT

What is the condition of our body?

Following, 5 of 5 from February 4th, 2024

"Regularly serving others like Jesus fills us with purpose."

1 Peter 4:7-11 by Michael Lockstampfor (@miklocks)

[\[https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/following-5-what-is-the-condition-of-our-body\]](https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/following-5-what-is-the-condition-of-our-body)

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[Music]

neighbors. I'm glad to be together with you. Have you ever had the experience of being in a doctor's office and the doctor -- you've talked to the nurse and you got a good rapport with the nurse and so you've just kind of been waiting for an inordinately amount an inordinate amount of time, just been waiting forever and ever and ever and ever, before the doctor can kind of come in? Right? And as soon as the doctor comes in he comes in he's got his eyeballs on the paper in front of him or the tablet or whatever and he's reading to you the thing that he's getting ready. "This is our this is our [plan] how we're going to attack this plan blah blah blah blah blah. Any questions?" and then he turns out and walk. Has anybody had that experience? Okay! how do we feel when the person who's treating us walks in and doesn't even make eye contact or even like look at our body to see if the things on paper are corresponding to the things that are happening in reality isn't that frustrating yeah okay all right cool I thought it was just me but doctors are frustrating because we want for understanding to precede action we want not only to like know that you know your books smart stuff but you also have understood what's happening in my body before you start filling it with chemicals or whatever issue is right and so we want understanding to precede action right yes typically that's true and I think that that's a pretty good way to operate um but I'm going to I'm going to ask us to consider this morning that perhaps when we're dealing with God there may be instances where our understanding actually takes a backseat to our action so a little bit backwards but we're not talking with a fallible physician we're talking with the infinite and Almighty Creator God and so that's what I'd like to talk about it's part of this series that we've been going through called following where we have looked at uh a conversation that Jesus was having with a number of people there were people who were asking him all kinds of questions not because they wanted to learn from Jesus but because they wanted him to say something dumb so they're trying to trip him up and somebody asks him what's the greatest commandment what's the one thing that all of like the Old Testament summarizes and he says the greatest commandment is this you love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul with all your mind with all your strength and it gives a bonus because as Jesus he can be extra love your neighbor as yourself right so as we've been going through this series we've been asking the question how do I love the Lord with all my heart how do I love the Lord with all my soul what even is my soul how do I love the Lord with all my mind how today we'll ask do I love the Lord with all my strength so if what I'm saying today feels a little lopsided it's because I've already spent

four weeks kind of talking about some other areas of life and I'm focusing in on one specific area so if there's something that's confusing um then perhaps we'll check with some of the other things that we've looked on the with other things that we've had other conversations we've had on the podcast or whatever and I'm happy to have conversations my favorite thing is when people come up and they say hey you said this thing and I didn't understand I've got a question about how this works that's my favorite because it means you were listening and well enough to have a question so that's exciting to me so Jesus deserves our undivided life regularly celebrating Jesus motivates our heart to want to follow him regularly gathering with others reshapes our souls to Christ likeness and Jesus instructs our thoughts and our feelings through his word this morning our next step how do I love the Lord my God with all my strength is that regularly serving others like Jesus fills with fills us with purpose but as we're starting out I'd invite you to pray with me the disciples prayer it's our habit um to kind of pray this together some people call it the Lord's Prayer I call it the disciples prayer because it's the one he gives to the disciples um and so we pray this together out loud uh if you would like to do that I'd encourage you to pray together with us the words are on the screen if you'd like to um but at the very least the most important thing is that we bow our hearts together and not just say these words but pray these words to God our Father so let's take a deep breath together and we'll begin with

prayer Our Father in heaven Hallowed Be Your Name Your Kingdom Come your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors and lead us not into temptation but Deliver Us from Evil for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever

amen so we've used a very similar outline for each of these conversations in fact it is almost identical we're asking the question how do I love the Lord my God with all my strength so we've got a couple of strength questions one what is our strength what are we even talking about two how is our strength like what's the condition of our strength uh is it does it work right and then the lastly how is our strength reformed okay so that's how we're going to progress this morning what is our strength now I'm going to just pause it for sake of Simplicity that our strength equals our body so our body is our ability to act we have we have thought and we have feelings kind of in our mind we have a will in our heart that can make decisions which makes us unique among creation we have a soul that is trying to make all of those things happen uh in alignment but we have a body which is the miracle of the ability to act wouldn't it be a shame if I could like make decisions and I could have really strong thoughts and feelings about them and then could not act to make anything happen and there's this that's getting ahead of myself but our body is our ability to act in the world it's our strength it's the thing that puts into action all of the other things that we are in our being okay it's like a power pack like it's the thing that gives our will the power to act it's the thing that gives our thoughts the ability to do something with our thoughts um and it's our own little kingdom for the expression of our will it's our ability to act in the material world and it is formed by God in the in the beginning of the Bible as God is giving an introduction to himself he says in the beginning God kind of assumes his own existence and then he says he created and set things from chaos into order by the power of his word so goes through he says let there be light and now there's light and there's darkness and there's you know time the space time continuing he just speaks it and it happens and he says okay let there be oceans and let there be dry land he just speaks it and the things divide he's giving instructions and the chaos is falling into order but when he when he decides to do something different something unique his crowning achievement of creation not achievement that makes it sound weird but the like highlight of the thing that he's doing in

creation is he stops speaking and he forms a body he gets it's all of this speaking, speaking, speaking, speaking and then God fashioned man he made he made Animals by the power of His word but he stopped and he formed Out of the Dust of the earth a body and when he breathed into it that body became a living person a living flesh a living soul and so our bodies are a gift from God now they are hardwired for self-preservation I don't know if you've ever noticed this but um it we have in our body these appetites these desires these instincts that want to make sure that we can live another day in our body right now some of us have a better tune to self-preservation than others teenagers are particularly susceptible to not listening to their body about like self-preservation right young men in general that's why insurance is so expensive because we're not necessarily all hardwired with the same sense of self-preservation these are the jokes man this is going to be hard so these appetites relate to safety relate to satisfaction so like I want to be satisfied and they also relate to that that thing that God made us to do Dominion however I grew up in a Baptist Church so I have to give you an SW word um so we got safety satisfaction and sovereignty like my ability to operate in the world uh sovereignty is a word I like to use for God though so I just made sphere the sphere of influence so safety satisfaction sovereignty now you can see my Neurosis a little bit hardwired for self-preservation one more point is that they're simple or uninventive our bodies by themselves are really, really simple and not very imaginative our body tells us our body just wants to do the same thing it did before our body just wants to do the thing that it did before you're like well Michael that's kind of an oversimplification your body tells you to eat in a similar way a similar kind of thing at a similar time that you ate yesterday amen? Amen. all right so our body just wants to do the thing it did before I'm hungry because it's 11 o' not because I'm hungry and need to eat right our body wants to do the same thing at the same time in the same way as before and our body cries out in absolute horror and disgust if we ever try to do something different with our body than what we did before right this is why running is awful [Music] hallelujah our body cries out in horror anytime we try to do something new with it even when it's well within our capacity to do I know that I have the ability to run a mile but when I get up to run a mile my body says no we didn't do this yesterday I don't like it make it stop why are you killing us and I know I have the ability to do it but my body says this is hey this is different I don't like it right okay good we got to the jokes that's good so our body is full of these instincts and these appetites and you can see them like there are some things that we just kind of know intuitively like when you see a mother with a child like there's some things you just don't have to teach a to care about right like try to take a baby out of a out of a hospital room when Mom's just given birth she does not need a I man's class to tell you that she's coming off of that bed it doesn't matter how she's feeling to get her baby right in the same way the baby has instincts that we didn't have to teach they learn that like they are come born with the eating function they just eat all the time and they and they eat and they eat and they eat and they eat and then they expel what they've eaten which is a different measure of parenting and then they kind of grow up and they just don't stop growing they won't let you stop feeding them but they just don't stop growing and then they get to be teenagers and I don't know you got to get pallets shipped from Sam's Club or something to make that work we're our bodies are full of these instincts and their appetites they're simple and they're uninventive but it's our ability to act in the world right so how would how is our strength like what is the condition of our bodies which is a weird question to ask and I and I realize that even by opening up the topic that I'm talking about something very personal to you like each of us has a body but we each operate our body differently and we have different relationships to our body so if so I just ask for a little bit of Grace as I'm trying to give general principles about how our body is um to filter it through the wisdom of God okay our bodies are not inherently



sinful our bodies are not inherently sinful having a flesh having a body that is hardwired for self-preservation and has instincts in and of itself is not sinful why would you say that Michael Jesus had a body and Jesus J was without sin in fact he says if I did not come in the flesh it didn't count for anything there was something essential to Jesus becoming a human that required him to have a body and by him having a body he did not take on sin in that Incarnation he just took on flesh now there are times in scripture where the scripture will instruct us um and it will talk about some of those appetites and some of those instincts as our flesh and we will hear old words like mortify the Flesh and we can walk into a relationship with our body thinking that our body is the enemy but is using flesh metaphorically to describe the sin Nature's appetites that are embedded in our body too as a result of the Fall does that make sense a little bit if I'm hoping it'll make sense so Jesus was fully human humans have bodies are not automatically sinful I need to hear that because I often think that if my body is like yelling at me why are you running I don't like this that my body is the enemy and now I have to beat it into submission and that's not the biblical way that's not the way God wants us to think about our bodies it's not inherently sinful it is a powerful tool for eliminating decisions a powerful tool for eliminating decisions now you've been in the grocery store and you've made decisions you did not know that there were 57 different kinds of ketchup and you have to pick just one because who's going to take five bottles of ketchup home our bodies are a powerful tool for eliminating decisions remember our will our decider is really powerful but it's lazy like it wants to Outsource decisions so if our if our will can Outsource decisions to our body it will if I if my will can say well I don't have to think about deciding to eat lunch because I ate lunch yesterday and I ate lunch the day before and the body is just going to remind me to eat lunch I don't have to think about it it's not a mental thing it's not a deciding thing I just have Outsource that decision making to the body right which is great unless we've trained our body to make bad choices so John Ortberg-- I can read --John Ortberg says habits eat willpower for

breakfast we are we are more likely to do what we habitually do than what we decide we're going to do however that's encouraging to me because if I attack the habit and reframe the habit and give a habit that's moving in the right direction then it might drag me along with it right so we've got we've got this uh this image that we've been using that's taking these four different parts that Jesus is referencing and trying to understand the individual Parts our heart is our will or our decider our mind is the thoughts and the feelings that we have our strength is our body our power pack and our soul is the synchronizer it's trying to make sure that all four of these parts are actually working in alignment and relationship with one another and in relationship to others primarily in our relationship to God okay we we've talked about all of those now we're talking about body but here's the deal I can put this on a chart for you and I can draw pretty little circles that make it look like these things are separate but you already know these things are not easily separated don't you it's hard for me to talk about what we do in our heart because sometimes the inclinations that I want to decide I'm not sure if they're heart decisions or whether they're appetite decisions coming from my body I have thoughts and I have feelings but they all actually reside in my brain which is a part of my body which is interesting you can take my brain out of my head and cut it apart you can cut my body apart but when you do that you won't open it up and find my thoughts they're not in there so the body is the ability to act but it but it does it's the container but it's not the thing itself and it's hard because we can't actually divide these things out most of the time and so this framework I have given to you is because I think it's helpful to try to put things in different categories but if we approach our life trying to determine what category this goes in and we and we think through this lens um we get

caught up in trying to identify what part of the problem that we're solving then we're not solving the problem because they're all related to one another right and that's why Jesus says I'm not just something to be added to your life I'm not just an option like I'm going to add religion on this year and see how it goes we'll see if I feel like a better person Jesus says listen the greatest commandment the thing that you should get is that you love the Lord your God with all of you all of you not it's not an addition it's not it's not just like a um it's not just a bonus it is the Reformation of all different parts of us conformed to the image of

Christ yes, yes, okay, all right! The parts each of the individual Parts have the ability to reshape the whole when they are submitted to

God you are you can by your thoughts submit your thoughts to God and reshape your will and in doing so your soul is blessed you can you can Outsource some habits to your body and get your body to do things habitually that your brain does not want to do and you just really don't feel like it but it will influence your thoughts and your feelings so that your heart is like yes this is the thing that we ought to do we ought to be in right relationship with God you've experienced this before how many of you if you come to church regularly have woken up on a Sunday morning and said church is the last thing I want to do today I'll put both hands up I'm in this camp like I don't I'm good I'll just skip out on work today it's fine right however there are times when I wake up with that feeling but because I have ingrained the habit and because I'm selfishly motivated like if I don't show up to work today then I'm not going to get there's going to be a problem like because I've used those parts of my life to go towards this thing when I get to church and I actually get to like shake hands and hug Carlos and I get to lift my voice together with you guys and I get to see like how God is moving in spite of my limited ability to feel like I'm in the right place that that's a blessing to

Me our bodily habits will either powerfully support or completely undermine our spiritual

health um Miss Sharma has been reading habits of the household the first book was called the common Rule and the premise of the book is this here are eight habits four of them are daily habits and four of them are weekly habits try them out and see what it does to your soul he says one of the daily habits is what if you just kneeled to pray three times a

day yeah maybe, maybe, you won't be able to get back up we'll see how this goes my knee was hurting this morning so what if what if I actually like three times a day set an alarm to kneel and stopped everything that was going on to be reminded that I'm not the god of the universe what would happen if at my lunch break I stopped and I physically got in the habit of kneeling or holding my Palms so that I could remember that I don't serve myself I serve a savior who loves me more than anything else I can I can put I can put habits in my body that are either going to support my spiritual health or they're going to completely undermine it and I'm not saying that you can't pray without kneeling I'm saying but what if you used the kneeling to teach you to pray

um Lord bless the folks that run hospice they have a beautiful calling to be with people as they are leaving the planet and uh I can remember hear in a hospice nurse tell a story about a patient who had been completely unresponsive for months no talk no interaction not like not really doing anything and just like completely like hadn't been eating so there was no feeding tube they weren't stringing this person along they just hadn't died yet and the priest comes in after months of this of this going on the priest comes in to give last rights and the person who had no mental function no cognition like no response to anything when the

priest gave the prayer crossed himself because the Habit was stored in his body and he passed in peace now I don't do this I do it as a joke sometimes especially to the youth group I cross them when they say something

stupid but there's something in using our bodies to pray that could assist us in our spiritual health is it is does that mean we can't pray without no it's not that but it's it's a tool to help

us um let me give you one more thought modern thought equates the soul with the self modern thought equates the soul with just the self and they're not the same uh when self-care is our priority our soul is actually neglected because our soul is fundamentally a relationship synchronizer it synchronizes the relationships within ourself but also our soul synchronizes the relationship with the people we're in community with primarily with God and if and if we're not in synchronized relationship with God then there's no amount of self-care that's going to heal

us focusing only on inner peace is going to kill us if we were created in and for

community so we're talking about using our body to support our spiritual life regularly serving others like Jesus fills us with purpose I'm going to invite you to to to use your body to serve other people even when you don't feel like it or when you don't think it's going to accomplish anything you can't quite understand regularly serving others like Jesus fills us with purpose I I dare you I dare you Google these words regularly serving others and hit enter just regularly serving others and and there are stacks of psychological and business and all like not just Christian stuff people who are saying that if you serve others if you volunteer regularly you actually have better better mental health and better spiritual health like you are a healthier person when you regularly serve others they figured it out Jesus just said hey love your neighbor as yourself and we're acting like oh my gosh what if we just love people as ourselves like maybe we would feel better and hey we will regularly serving others fills Jesus or like Jesus fills us with purpose okay so then how is our strength reformed we've kind of uh touched a little bit uh a little bit on this but I'm going to invite you to open your Bibles and turn with me to First Peter chapter 4 First Peter chapter 4 in these blue Bibles it is on page 1262 if you uh the blue bibles are kind of tucked under the chairs scattered around the room in front of you if you'd like to follow along if you don't have a uh a Bible at home that you can read in a in a readable translation then write your name in that one take it home let it be our gift to you we're going to be on page 1262 1 Peter chapter 4

and I'm going to begin reading in verse 7 I'll read verses 7- 11 1 Peter chapter 4 the end of all things is at hand therefore be self-controlled and sober minded for the sake of your prayers above all keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins show Hospitality to one another without grumbling as each has received a gift use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied Grace whoever speaks as one who speaks Oracles of God whoever serves as one who serves by the strength that God supplies in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ to him belong glory and Dominion forever and ever amen so how is our strength how are our bodies reformed serving others like Jesus can only be sustained by real love like the the way that Jesus loves us is the the way that we love other people it's why when we pray as Disciples of Jesus forgive us as we have forgiven we know that we can only serve others or serving others like Jesus can only be sustained by real love you can't willpower yourself into serving others into Health if you can do it without Jesus then you are missing something verses seven and 8 the end of all things is at hand therefore be self-controlled and sober minded for the sake of

your prayers above all keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins serve other people you be self-controlled and you serve other people and serve in love because when you serve other people sometimes they treat you like a

servant and my ego does not like that very much I get offended and so he says hey you should serve one another you you should be self-controlled and you you should serve one another and as you're serving serve from love serve like Jesus did who though he was the form of God like had all Divinity did not grasp on to that but he humbled himself making himself a servant submitting himself to death even death on a cross that's that's he'll say somewhere else in in Peter's writing he'll say that that's the example that we were meant to follow that Christ suffered as an example for us and so as you serve serve from a posture of love because serving like Jesus can only be sustained by real love time is short forgive and love as Jesus is loving you in verse nine serving others like Jesus happens in the stuff of everyday life show Hospitality to one another without grumbling show Hospitality uh when you walk into a place where like hospitality is their job so I'm thinking like a hotel assuming it's a hotel that's like doing a good job like when you walk into the space they have been eager to show Hospitality they probably like vacuumed the floor they probably thought about what your experience is going to be when you walk in and when you walk in they smile at you and they welcome you okay that's not particularly spiritual stuff smiling is is really not that spiritual however if when we greet people people like we or like what are you doing here I'm confused like when I saw Haim come in I was like oh man he's late I'm going to give him a scowl like no when I see that haim's here I smile because I'm glad he's here right well welcome people smiling is not particularly spiritual unless you're somebody who hasn't been smiled at a lot and then somebody who Smiles at you can feel like just a gift and a blessing from

God serving others like Jesus happens in the everyday stuff like like it's it's not overly complicated and some of us are better at this than others there are some people who are spiritually gifted to be hospitable and to show kindness to strangers and and we need those people and we need to learn from those people because this is not just of like you have this spiritual gift so you go do that Hospitality people go be hospitable it's like no all of you Christians the end of the world is at hand time is short so be hospitable love one another in the ordinary stuff serving others like Jesus is customized by his gifts to you did you see that in there two in uh in verses 10 and 11 as each has received a gift use it to serve one another as God's as good stewards of God's varied Grace whoever speaks as one who speaks Oracles of God whoever serves as one who serves by the strength that God supplies God gives us custom gifts we are not the same there are some people who can look at a spreadsheet and they can do the math without even thinking about it I am not that person I work real hard and and you remember I don't know if Steve will remember I worked so hard getting a spreadsheet together and I gave it to Steve and Steve looked at he said your numbers don't add up the columns don't sum and so this year when I was making the same spreadsheet I was like let me check this four or five times I want to make sure I got it right for like that's not a thing that I'm gifted at I'm gifted in some other ways um I don't like usually I rely on other people to tell me what I'm good at because if you are gifted at something it will not be hard to you and you're like well duh of course but like if it's not hard to you you think it's not special until you come across somebody who it's really really hard for and you're like why you why do you think I'm so great like this is really easy for me and they're like yeah because you're gifted in it and so I that this is another element of like Jesus gives gifts and because they're in me because I can't see my own face I have to trust that other people can see my gifts better than I can and so I serve there was a time where I said there's

absolutely no way that I can get up and speak in front of people in a way that's coherent and there were people in my life who said you're wrong about that go do it and I did not feel like it I did not want to do it and I said no and I'm not saying like I I reached out to somebody who is who I have observed to be gifted I asked them to teach me this week so I'm not like saying that now that you have been gifted like now I've got the thing like we work at our gifts but serving others is customized by his gifts to you we don't have to all do the same thing there's formal Ministry where we get together and somebody's in charge and they tell us what to do and we get something done probably more than we could do alone there's informal Ministry where something shows up and somebody walks in and they're crying and you're the only person there and you just put your arm around them and pray with them because you're the one who's there like both of those honor Jesus whatever gift and opport opportunity Jesus gives to you submit that back to him and do it as an act of worship use your bodies to serve

him and just real quick in the things that we organize and the things that we do like our church is not gifted the same as every other Church there are good gospel preaching churches in town and I pray for them they have very different philosophies of Ministry for me from us and yet God is using them to what they're doing and he's using us to what we're doing and it's it's all for the same goal serving others uniquely does not change the goal did you see the end of the verse all this serving happens in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ to him belong glory and Dominion forever and ever amen if there's anything that we're doing and serving to to bring attention to ourselves then we're missing the goal if we if we like want to express our gifts so that everybody can think about how gifted we are then we are missing the goal the goal does not shift by uniquely using our gifts the goal is the same we give honor and glory to Jesus we celebrate the work that Jesus is doing in US regularly serving others like Jesus fills us with our

purpose as we are in did I okay as we are in like a culture in a society that just you know that self-care idea of just like take care of yourself treat yourself whatever that is like there's some of that that can't happen if we're just if we're just looking at the mirror the whole time sometimes the thing that we need to do to feel better about ourself is to stop thinking about ourself and go serve somebody else there there there are things that we know in our head there are things that we feel in our mind that we actually cannot control but if we were to get outside of our thoughts and go and serve somebody all of that would just kind of sort itself out later there are some things that we don't like understand until we do

them so how how do we uh love the Lord Our God with all our strength how is our strength reformed it starts with I think viewing your strength viewing your body as a tool or an instrument or a vessel rather than an enemy which we've kind of talked about my body is not the enemy or as a master just because I want something doesn't mean I have to my body and my appetites do not determine everything that I do I have these appetites and in some senses I need to meet them but it's not that I need to follow every

appetite and I can think about like I can I can think about this in terms of a number of different categories I would say if you want to read more the the chapter in the Bible that's going to be most explicit about this is 1 Corinthians chapter 6 but you likely will not honor God with your body until you understand that stewardship of your body is a spiritual priority the thing that I want is second desserts but until I understand that honoring God with my body is a spiritual priority I'm probably not going to change the thing that I'm doing I'm 100% not going to stop eating desserts I made two pies this week I didn't eat any of them but so

good you likely will not honor God with your body until you understand stewardship of your body as as a spiritual priority it does uh 1 Corinthians 6 does address our diet and our exercise the way that we use our body it also regards uh in regards to our sexuality it says the way that you use your body either supports your spiritual life or it completely undermines it and here's the thing God gives us some instructions because we need them and there's and there's times where we come to God and we say God I don't understand how that could possibly help me and so I'm going to do the opposite because that's what I feel like doing or that's what I want to do or that's I'm going to satisfy this appetite because you gave me these appetites I'm just G to my body is my master I'm just going to do all that there's times where he says hey don't hey don't go do this other thing because this other thing is actually going to give you life and there's times where we say God I don't understand how it would benefit us and so I'm not going to obey and here's the place where I'm going to ask you to follow God in a way that is unnatural to you following your doctor if the creator of the universe has said hey honor me with how you do how you control your body then do that and there may be something in the do that leads to a better understanding God I don't understand how like being self-controlled in my relationship to Desert is actually going to like help me feel closer to you and he looks at me and says yeah because you're on your third slice of cake man like try it and see what you learn like what if you what if you actually approached your body as a tool to help you execute the thing that I'm reforming in you and what if you obeyed me first and maybe in The Obedience I came to understand

something um I worked many years uh in in landscaping and uh there's a time where my I learned I learned irrigation I learned all kinds of stuff learned lighting and there were so many times where my boss would tell me something I'd be like that is dumb that's real stupid I think you're wrong and he said just do it and I said No and then I'd do it my way and it'd all get messed up and he'd be like well did you do what I said I said no I didn't do what you said cuz what you said was Dumb and he says well this time you're going to do it my way and so then I would do it again and it was kind of like his way but it's still kind of my way you know what I'm saying and it was good enough to pass right and then there came a day where I just decided what if I just did the thing he told me to do and I did the thing he told me to do and there was something in the wisdom of following his instructions that I learned better how to understand the thing that I was doing there was obedience for understanding in fact obedience was the way to

understand obedience can and particularly in relationship with God um yeah obedience can and particularly in our relationship with God should come before understanding when the will when our will submitted to God instructs us to do something our mind cannot understand we Rebel like I don't get it I'm not going to do it but the body practicing God's design submitting to the heart may lead the mind to understand the purpose despite the limits of our intellectual or emotional

imagination that's that's a lot of words here's what John Calvin said one time he said all true knowledge of God is born out of obedience yeah there it is I don't know what I'm doing with this clicker thing all true knowledge of God is born out of obedience there are things about God that we cannot understand until we've done what he's instructed us to do I don't know how me giving my money away is going to change my relationship to God like I don't feel like I I don't feel like me holding on to my money like if I'm holding on to my money I'm being wise I'm stewarding like I'm I'm taking care of it and I'm growing it if I just give it away like

then then it's not going to grow I'm not taking care of it I'm being irresponsible but if but if he says give it away and I give it away and I discover like oh that thing is actually an idol I'm worshiping that gift rather than the one who gave it I learned something through obedience and regularly serving others like Jesus fills us with

purpose now as as we close this series I just want to draw us back one more time to Mark 12 and you don't have to turn there I'll just tell you how it ends this this teacher who comes up to Jesus and says hey what's the greatest commandment and Jesus gives him love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul with all your mind with all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself the the guy who ask the question says hey that's a really good answer he agrees with Jesus and Jesus looks at him and says hey you know what you're not far

off you know the right thing you actually are agreeing with me but you're not there

yet and so understanding or agreement or belief that these principles of loving the Lord your God are true is the is a beautiful beginning and it takes some work to start from like where we start to agreeing with God about something right takes work in me and he says if we're there we're not far off but following is walking in relationship with the Creator as we do the things he set out for us to

do and regularly serving others like Jesus fills us with purpose let's pray

together

Lord Jesus you know um you know each of us and you know the ways that we've interacted with your word and so God if there's something that I have said that's been distracting or untrue Lord I pray that you just wipe that real quick that it would be forgotten but Lord if we have heard from you if your spirit has has cleared conveyed your word to our our hearts then Lord I pray that that would stick that we would not be able to shake the thought and Lord by no means do we think that we can earn our salvation by obeying you but Lord we do realize that that that even if we're convinced that you're right if we don't obey then we're only halfway

there and so Lord wherever we are whether all of this Faith stuff is is brand new and we're just trying to figure it out whether we've heard a lot of these things before and are just being reminded of them whether we're we're far from God and we don't agree with him yet Lord I just pray that you'd meet us in that space I thank you that you're not afraid of our questions and I thank you that we can bring them to

you God I pray that you uh that you would do the work that only you can do in these

moments that you'd lead us in the in the things that we ought to be doing

next we thank you for this time we thank you for your word and for your grace it's in your name that we pray amen

[Music]