

Introduction

- Sts. Peter, Andrew, James, and John responded to Christ's call with immediate obedience and love.
- Jesus desires that we love Him fully
- "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Mk. 12:30)



Heart

- The heart is the source of our desires and emotions.
- St. Peter's heart was deeply touched by the Lord Jesus' teachings.
- "And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love." (Psalm 119:47)
- Example: Saul doesn't destroy all the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15).



Heart

Contrast: The Edomites rejoiced over the misfortune of the Israelites when Jerusalem was invaded.

"You should not have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction." (Obadiah 1:12)

Mind

- The mind the intellect, knowledge, and experience.
- "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net.' (Luke 5:5)
- Example: Abraham offered up Isaac without understanding.
- "He obeyed not because he understood but because he trusted; for that is the essence of faith—not to ask for reasons but to trust the command." – (St. John Chrysostom)



Mind

- Loving God with all your mind means submitting to God's commandments, even when we don't understand.
- "If you submit to God in all things and obey those who are in authority over you as the Lord, you will be victorious in your warfare even if your opinion does not agree with theirs." (St. Basil the Great)
- "Obedience is rightly preferred to sacrifices because by sacrifices the flesh of another is slain but by obedience our own will is sacrificed." (St. Gregory the Great)

Soul

- The soul is the essence of our being.
- Peter's soul was humbled when he recognized Christ's holiness and his own sinfulness.
- "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" – Luke 5:8
- Example: Isaiah's vision.
- "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips..." (Isaiah 6:5)

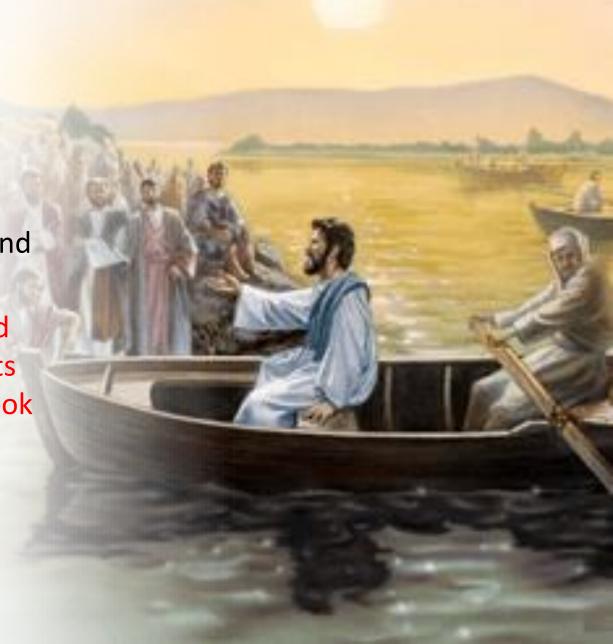


Soul

- Those who love the Lord with their soul are the ones who love the truth and desire to see themselves as they truly are.
- "I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. Nevertheless, I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand." (Psalm 73:22-23)
- "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise." (Psalm 51:17)



- Strength one's physical abilities and possessions.
- "So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him." (Luke 5:11)



Strength

- "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved." (2 Corinthians 12:15)
- Examples: Healing of Naaman the Syrian, Resurrection of Lazarus, Preaching of the Apostles.