



Prayer Guide: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

11/1/21

1. *“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!” Deuteronomy 6:4*

The opening phrase, “hear, O Israel,” is a call to listen and pay attention because something important is coming up. That “something” is a declaration. No one is God except Jehovah and He demands our reverence.

Ask yourself:

- 1. Where do I look for wisdom, leadership, direction? Is God my first choice?*
- 2. How often do I look to Google, Pinterest, YouTube or even Facebook for answers to life’s questions rather than to Scripture?*
- 3. Is God my first priority?*
- 4. Do I believe God can give me answers for even the simple how-to’s of life?*

Take action:

- 1. Confess areas in which you’ve allowed anything or anyone other than God to take precedence in your life and ask for forgiveness.*
- 2. For today, take every question to God first instead of to an online search. Listen to His instructions and follow His lead. Only do a “search” if He directs.*

2. *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Deuteronomy 6:5*

The next few verses will contain commands to hold, teach, talk, bind, write. The first command, however, is to love. Everything else flows from nothing-held-back, all-inclusive love for Him. This love is not mere emotion but involves the totality of our heart, our mind, emotions, and strength.

Ask yourself:

- 1. Review 1 Corinthians 13. This is the kind of love God has for us, but is this the kind of love we have for God?*
- 2. Do I demand instant answers to my prayer requests?*
- 3. Do I want my way more than God’s?*
- 4. In what areas of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 do I need change?*

Take action:

1. Look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 again and make a note of the areas in which you have failed to act in a loving manner toward our Lord.
2. Spend some time in confession and repentance.
3. Ask God to fill every fiber of your being with unfettered love for Him.

3. “And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.”
Deuteronomy 6:6

The word translated as “on” is often translated “in” and means **these words of God are to be planted in our hearts through Scripture memory** so they are ready for use (encouragement, help in decisions, reestablish priorities, etc) at a moment’s notice.

Ask yourself:

1. How much Scripture have I committed to memory?
2. How diligently and consistently do I work at Scripture memorization?

Take action:

1. Decide and make a commitment to memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-7 because all hard things begin with the decision and commitment to do them.
2. Begin by writing out the verses by hand every day for seven days.
3. Read the words aloud four times a day for a week.
4. Beginning the second day, try to quote as much as you can from memory.
5. Expand your efforts daily until you have memorized the passage.
6. Repeat daily for the next month until it is securely planted in your heart.

4. “And you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 6:7

It’s not enough to teach our children about the Lord. We are to talk about Him and our love for Him as go about our day. Take note of the “whens” mentioned here:

- When we rise up (first thing in the morning)
- When we lie down (last thing at night)
- When we walk by the way (as we work, do chores, and the day’s activities)
- When we sit in our houses (rest, leisure time)

Ask yourself:

1. How would it change my day if I talked about my love for God (with Him and others) first thing in the morning, last thing at night, as I work, and in my leisure time?
2. Is the pattern of Deuteronomy 6:7 the one I follow now?

Take action:

1. Commit to talking about your love for God four times a day for the next week. (Remember, this “talking” is with another human, not only with God.)

2. *Set alerts on your phone or other device as a reminder to speak of God throughout your day.*

5. *“And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:8,9*

Orthodox Jews still bind phylacteries containing Scripture to their foreheads and arms at different times throughout the day. As God reminded Samuel when he looked at Jesse’s sons (1 Samuel 16:7), He doesn’t look at the outward appearance but at the heart.

Ask yourself:

- 1. Do my outward displays of faithfulness (posts on social media, Christian t-shirts, etc) match the inward faithfulness of my heart?*
- 2. When God looks at my heart, what does He see?*

Take action:

- 1. Ask God to show you your heart the way He sees it and be prepared for an opportunity to repent.*
- 2. Allow God to clean out any unloveliness in you and ask Him to replace those areas of brokenness with healing and wholeness completely pleasing to Him.*
- 3. Pray with David, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10*