



Chaplain's Office
University Passage Resource

[Video:](#)

[Discussion with Victor Santa Cruz](#)

Gary Pine
Director of Athletics

God is both infinite and inexhaustible, and nothing within our finite efforts to pursue him can diminish or lessen those characteristics of his. Still, we are to pursue God in such a way that we may know him and love him on the deepest levels within our being.

In sports there's a cliché of "giving 110-percent," implying that an athlete has surrendered and offered everything within their being for the sake of winning. "Everything was left on the field (or court)" as another saying goes. The statements are tributes to a well-done effort that is tireless, continual, and complete. Obviously it's impossible for anyone to give beyond everything they have, but the picture of "110-percent given" resonates with those who aspire to achieve greatness with their effort.

In a similar manner Jesus' statement regarding the greatest command – to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind – requires that we give everything we are and have for the ultimate goal of knowing and loving God.

In heart, mind, strength, and soul is our entire being. The heart represents our emotions, our deepest feelings that few friends or family, if any, really know and understand. Strength here refers to our physical nature and the well-being of this amazingly intricate body that God has created to contain our being while on earth. The mind is our intellect, and we are to intellectually pursue the inexhaustible God who in return will satisfy our quest to know him with awe-inspiring truths regarding his nature and character. The soul is our identity, who we truly are, even if we don't fully understand who exactly we are. The soul contains our core identity, and only in Christ will we be satisfied in our identity.

Our relationship with God is paramount above all else in our lives. It is the reason for our existence. Not that God was incomplete without us, but out of the nature of his love he created us for relationship; first with him (a vertical relationship) and then with everyone else (horizontal relationships), and it is out of those relationships that we glorify God. Therefore, if we were created for relationship, and love is the foundational piece of that relationship, then let us "give 110-percent" and love God with everything that we are, giving "110-percent."