



Heart, Mind, Soul & Strength

Jesus echoed the words given to Moses In Deuteronomy 6, when He said the greatest commandment was knowing that “the Lord our God is one Lord” and that with that knowledge one should *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength”* (Mark 12:29-30).

The four essential elements found in these verses are what can be used to build a complete educational system for each grade K-12. The heart, mind, soul, and strength are the four divisions of a spiritual curriculum plan. Each one of the aforementioned includes a developmental state in a child’s life.

Heart—Grades K-3

The battle for our children starts early. In these early years, we should be committed to capturing the hearts of our children for God, their families, and service to others. These years should be used for engaging the hearts of our children with a love for learning about our Sovereign God and His magnificent creation.

Mind—Grades 4-6

It is critical at this stage to build upon the foundation of a good heart. God reminded Job that He is the source of wisdom and understanding (Job 38:36). Children at this

age are beginning to engage the mind in new ways and they are beginning to learn the process of learning. As the prophet Isaiah was instructed, knowledge is learned precept upon precept and line upon line, a little at a time. Those who do not listen and learn will stumble, be broken, snared, and taken captive (Isaiah 28:9-13). It is important to teach our children to think in Godly ways as they learn of the world God created, the history He has authored and the precepts established.

Soul-Grades 7-9

At this stage children can reason logically, and the focus of education now builds upon the heart and knowledge and how they relate to the soul. They can now recognize that their souls are eternal and that what they learn and how they apply that knowledge will have everlasting consequences.

Strength—Grades 10-12

The final stage of learning comes when a student not only knows a subject but can articulate it in both written and spoken word to defend truth. These grades are a final preparation in the application and defense of God's truth in all aspects of their lives. As Paul wrote, *“Finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might, put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil”* (Eph. 6:10-11).

We have provided a good education when our Children can say as David did, *“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread...? Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord”* (Psalms 27:1-3, 14,).

It is my prayer that every parent or guardian at Holgate, myself included, make provisions for our children to grow their faith in God at this congregation. Commit today to bring *your* family to bible study times that are available every week. And let *us* love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.

Have A Blessed Week, Bro. Max