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## A JEALOUS GOD

*“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”*

**Deuteronomy 4:24 (HCSB)**

**Our God is a consuming fire. He is satisfied only when His love totally consumes us.** We usually think of a jealous person as someone resentful and suspicious, but the Lord’s jealousy on our behalf is something that should be precious to us! He has the complete right to our lives. **He gave us life, and He wants to protect us from anything that could harm us.** That is why He has commanded His children to worship no other gods, allowing nothing to distract us from His consuming love.

**The Lord opposes anything that hinders our relationship with Him (Deut. 6:15).** He knows the danger of other gods, how they will lure us away, deceive us, and leave us empty. He will tolerate nothing that takes precedence over our love for Him. Our faithfulness to God assures us of the abundant life. He wants to give us. If we reject Him, He will pursue us until we return to Him.

**We should not resent the fact that God wants to guard our relationship with Him.** It should bring us comfort. Our relationship with God should be our top priority. It should dictate how we spend our time, our money, and our energy. **If certain people or our possessions separate us from God, we must reexamine our hearts and give our devotion first to Him, as He commands.** God wants each of us to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mark 12:30). Our love for God should extend to every corner of our lives. God loved us so much that He gave us His own Son. **Let us respond by giving Him our highest devotion in return. AMEN.**

Drs. Henry and Richard Blackaby

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

