Shema Israel. Pasuq 2. “You shall love HaShem your God”

The words of the Shema Israel are so important that we say them three times a day, every day of our lives.
The first thing we are taught in the Shema is to love God.
“You shall love HaShem your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might.”
To love God **“with all our heart”** How can you make sure that you really love HaShem? When you are happy doing what is right in His eyes, and unhappy when you do what is wrong in His eyes. On the contrary, if you feel obligated but unhappy to do what is right in His eyes, then you might “fear” God, but not “love” God.
To love God **“with all our soul”** means to love Him so sincerely that we will willingly give our life for Him. Our ancestors risked their lives and were willing to be killed in order to remain Jewish. If so many of our ancestors gave up their lives for the sake of HaShem, should not we be willing to live our lives for the sake of HaShem?
Loving HaShem with **“all our might”** means: with all our possessions, our money, our time. In this sense we should understand “to love God” as “to prioritize God” over our possessions, our money, our time. The strength of our love for God is proved by the greatness of the sacrifices we are willing to make for Him.
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To love means you should sacrifice for your loved one, what is more precious to you.
□□□□ □□□ With all your attention:
□□□□ □□□□ With all your time:
□□□□□ □□□□ With all your possessions
[Listen and learn the first part (perasha) of the Shema Israel, Sephardic style.]