

JOHN 14:15,21,23
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JOHN 14:15 if ye love me, keep my commandments.

- "if you love me, you will keep my commandments NASB
 - o "if you love me, you will do what I command" NIV

TRUST AND OBEY – FOR THERE'S NO OTHER WAY – TO BE HAPPY IN JESUS – BUT TO TRUST AND OBEY.!

During WWII, the **allied forces in North Africa** were suffering **humiliating defeat after humiliating defeat**. **General Montgomery, a professed Christian**, was sent to command the troops. Often **General Montgomery** had instructed others in the Christian life on how they should obey the Captain of their salvation.

According to **General Montgomery**, **when he gave a command, he expected it to be obeyed!** In his words.

"ORDERS NO LONGER FORMED THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, BUT FOR ACTION . . .
. Previously orders had generally been queried by subordinates right down the line. I was determined to stop this state of affairs at once."

IN A VERY SHORT WHILE, GENERAL MONTGOMERY HAD UNCOVERED THE CAUSE OF LOST BATTLES IN AFRICA, AND HE RECTIFIED THE PROBLEM! *tan #3923*

MANY CHRISTIANS TODAY ARE BAFFLED BY THEIR LACK OF SPIRITUAL VICTORIES.
THEY CANNOT COMPREHEND WHY THEIR PRAYERS SEEM POWERLESS.
THEY MARVEL THAT THEY ARE SO EASILY SWAYED FROM THEIR APPOINTED COURSE.
THEY CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THEY ARE NOT ENJOYING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE . . .

THEY NEED TO LEARN A BASIC LESSON, THE SAME BASIC LESSON THAT **GENERAL MONTGOMERY** HAD TO TEACH HIS TROOPS IN NORTH AFRICA.

"ORDERS DO NOT FORM THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, BUT FOR ACTION

JOHN 14:15 IF YE LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.
"IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL DO WHAT I COMMAND" NIV

(READ THESE THREE POINTS:)

- I. IT IS THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE THAT WE DEMONSTRATE OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST
- II. IT IS THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE THAT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE TO US
- III. IT IS THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE THAT JESUS DISCLOSES HIMSELF TO US

READ 12-15 IN MY NAME

I. IT IS THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE THAT WE DEMONSTRATE OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST

(REVIEW - TO BE "IN CHRIST".)

1ST, TO BE "IN CHRIST" MEANS THAT WE HAVE BEEN MADE ACCEPTABLE, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED RIGHTEOUS BY GOD BASED ON THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST.

II Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2NDLY - TO BE **IN CHRIST**, MEANS THAT WE ARE LOVED BY GOD - IN THE SAME WAY THAT HE LOVES JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF!

John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast **LOVED THEM, AS THOU HAST LOVED ME.**

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD IS A "**LOVE RELATIONSHIP**" FROM START TO FINISH.

I John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

WE ARE A "**NEW CREATURE**".

II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST'S COMMANDS IS THE WAY THAT THIS NEWNESS IS DEMONSTRATED! TO OTHERS - AS WELL AS TO OURSELVES!

I John 2:3 AND HEREBY WE DO KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM, IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

OUR LOVE TOWARD HIM, DEMONSTRATED BY OUR OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS, IS INTEGRAL IN THE PRAYER PROCESS!

THOSE WHO TRY TO TWIST GOD'S ARM WITH THE PROMISES OF V. **13-14** NEED READ NO FURTHER THAN **V. 15** TO SEE THAT JUST AS **THERE ARE PROMISES** MADE BY CHRIST CONCERNING HIS PERFORMANCE, SO TOO FOR THE CHILD OF **GOD THERE ARE RESPONSIBILITIES** THAT WE ARE REQUIRED TO FULFILL TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED.

I John 3:22 AND WHATSOEVER WE ASK, WE RECEIVE OF HIM, BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, AND DO THOSE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

OUR LIFE-STYLE IS TO BE ONE THAT EXEMPLIFIES THE **LOVE OF CHRIST, THE UNSELFISH OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST, THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST.**

WE ARE TO BE LIKE GOD'S SON IF WE ARE TO BE LIKE GOD WANTS US TO BE.

THE **MAN OR WOMAN WHO CAN EXPECT ANSWERS TO THEIR PRAYERS** IS NOT THE MAN OR WOMAN WHO SHOUTS THE NAME OF JESUS IN A FIT OF SELF-RIGHTEOUS FERVOR, - BUT

RATHER IT IS THE ONE WHO IS "IN CHRIST" "IN GOD'S WILL" AND "IN COMPLIANCE TO THE COMMANDMENTS OF CHRIST!"

THIS IS NOT BONDAGE - BUT FREEDOM!

There was a woman who married a man. He treated her roughly and made her arise at 5:00 am each day to fix his food. He made her scrub the house daily, and expected his dinner on the table when he arrived home in the evening. She did the work, but she lived a miserable life. But the man died. The woman **remarried**. After several years she realized that she had arisen early each day to prepare her husband's food, had scrubbed the house daily and fulfilled all her husband's desires, yet without compulsion or coercion. In fact, she scarcely thought the work hard or unreasonable at all.

THE DIFFERENCE WAS THAT SHE LOVED THIS HUSBAND AND HE LOVED HER! THOSE THINGS THAT SHE DID HAD THEIR ORIGIN IN THIS RECIPROCAL LOVE.

I John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God, and keep his commandments. FOR THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: AND HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT GRIEVOUS.**

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE UNSAVED INDIVIDUALS WHO MANIFEST HUMAN LOVE TOWARD MANKIND, OR ANIMALS, OR CAUSES NEAR TO THEIR HEART, "**CHRISTIAN LOVE**" ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, IS A **DISTINCT MANIFESTATION** OF DIVINE LOVE OPERATING IN THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the LOVE OF GOD IS SHED ABROAD (poured out) IN OUR HEARTS BY (as produced, or caused, by) THE **HOLY GHOST** WHICH IS GIVEN UNTO US. "

THE LOVE TO WHICH CHRIST REFERS IS NOT THE RESULT OF HUMAN AFFECTION - BUT RATHER THE DIRECT MANIFESTATION OF THE "LOVE OF GOD" PASSING THROUGH OUR HEART BY THE AGENCY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD!

IT IS THE ANSWER TO THE LAST PETITION OF CHRIST IN HIS HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER OF

JOHN 17:26. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO "**PRODUCE**" THIS LOVE IN YOUR HEART, BUT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO "**EXPERIENCE IT**".AND IF YOU TRULY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF GOD - YOU WILL KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS!

"IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS" NASB

II. IT IS THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE THAT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE TO US

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and HE THAT LOVETH ME SHALL BE LOVED OF MY FATHER, and I will love him, and will MANIFEST myself to him.

THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN REPLACE THE FEELING OF "LOVE" IN OUR LIVES. THE ABSENCE OF LOVE, OF THE SECURITY THAT COMES FROM UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, IS WHAT DRIVES SO MANY TO DESPAIR AND SUICIDE IN OUR AGE TODAY. WE NEED LOVE, AND WE ESPECIALLY NEED THE LOVE OF GOD! WE NEED TO EXPERIENCE IT, ON EVERY LEVEL. NOT JUST ON A DOCTRINAL

LEVEL OF ACCEPTING IT TO BE TRUE (" **YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU**") BUT ON A **EMOTIONAL LEVEL** OF FEELING THAT LOVE, EXPERIENCING THAT "LOVING FEELING." BASKING IN THE GLOW OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR CREATOR AND GOD!

III. IT IS THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE THAT JESUS DISCLOSES HIMSELF TO US

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and **keepeth** them, he it is that **loveth** me: and HE THAT LOVETH ME SHALL BE LOVED OF MY FATHER, and I will love him, and will MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, HOW IS IT THAT THOU WILT MANIFEST THYSELF UNTO US, AND NOT UNTO THE WORLD? Jesus answered and said unto him, IF A MAN LOVE ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORDS: AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

TO THINK THAT WE CAN PRAY "IN THE NAME OF CHRIST" AND YET, NOT DO HIS WILL, NOT KNOW HIS HEART, NOT UNDERSTAND HIS DESIRE FOR US, TO THINK THAT GOD HAS OBLIGATED HIMSELF TO ANSWER THE PRAYER OF THOSE WHO KNOW NOT THE WILL OF GOD, TO THINK THIS WAY IS PREPOSTEROUS! IF WE KNOW GOD AT ALL, IT IS BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN REVEALED TO US BY THE SON.

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? HE THAT HATH SEEN ME HATH SEEN THE FATHER; And how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

IF WE CAN PRAY BY FAITH AT ALL IT IS BECAUSE OF THE ASSURANCE OF HIS WORD THAT HE WILL DO WHAT WE ASK - WHEN WE **PRAY IN HIS NAME**.

TO DO THIS - WE MUST KNOW HIM! AND THE BETTER WE KNOW HIM, THE MORE ABLE WE ARE TO PRAY IN HIS NAME.

V. 21 AND 23 MAKE IT INFINITELY CLEAR THAT THOSE TO WHOM JESUS WILL REVEAL HIMSELF, ARE THOSE WHO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS!

IF WE ARE NOT LIVING LIVES OF OBEDIENCE - IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE FALLEN OUT OF LOVE WITH THE LORD! IT IS JUST THAT SIMPLE. HE IS NO LONGER #1 IN OUR LIVES . . .

CHURCH AT EPHESUS - LOST THEIR FIRST LOVE - ADVISE FOR ACTION - HE THAT HATH AN EAR TO HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH UNTO THE CHURCHES . . .

Revelation 2:5 REMEMBER THEREFORE FROM WHENCE THOU ART FALLEN, AND REPENT, AND DO **THE FIRST WORKS**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

SOMEONE HERE TODAY MAY HAVE WANDERED FROM THE PATHS OF OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD - STOP, LISTEN TO HIS VOICE - REPENT.

"A missionary translator was endeavoring to find a word for "OBEDIENCE" in the native language. This was a virtue seldom practiced among the people into whose language he wanted to translate the New Testament. As he returned home from the village one day, he whistled for his dog and it came running at full speed. An old native, seeing this, said admiringly in the native tongue, "**YOUR DOG IS ALL EAR.**" **Immediately, the missionary knew that he had his word for obedience.** tann #3927

JESUS IS LOOKING FOR "A FEW GOOD SHEEP" WHO ARE "ALL EAR"!

SHEEP WHO UNDERSTAND SIMPLY THAT

"ORDERS DO NOT FORM THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, BUT FOR ACTION

THOSE WHO KNOW THE TRUTH OF JESUS' WORDS IN **JOHN 14:15**

"IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL DO WHAT I COMMAND" NIV