

# What Does God Require?

Dr. Greg Bourgond

I'm now 21 days into my journey of reading the entire Bible in 90 days. I'm struck with the clarity of God's requirements for following Him. Over and over again He says "Love the Lord your God and ..." And what? With once exception He adds clarification of what it means to love him. Look at these verses that follow. According to these verses how does a man fully devoted to God express his love to Him?

- **Deuteronomy 6:5** *Love the LORD your God with all your heart **and** with all your soul and with all your strength.*
- **Deuteronomy 11:1** *Love the LORD your God **and** keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.*
- **Deuteronomy 11:13** *So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today — to love the LORD your God **and** to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul ...*
- **Deuteronomy 11:22** *If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow — to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways **and** to hold fast to him ...*
- **Deuteronomy 19:9** *... because you carefully follow all these laws I command you today — to love the LORD your God **and** to walk always in his ways — then you are to set aside three more cities.*
- **Deuteronomy 30:16** *For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, **and** to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.*
- **Deuteronomy 30:20** *... that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, **and** hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*
- **Joshua 22:5** *But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him **and** to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."*
- **Joshua 23:11** *So be very careful to love the LORD your God.*

So how do we express our love to El Shaddai (God Almighty)?

**With every part of our being...heart, soul, and strength...**  
**By keeping His requirements, decrees, laws and commands...**  
**By obedience and service...**  
**By walking in His ways and holding fast to Him...**  
**By listening to His voice...**

What's all this 'command' stuff? Doesn't the New Testament remove any requirement for keeping the Law? Let's hear what Jesus has to say.

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:17-19)."*

I think John, the apostle, makes it even more clear.

- **1 John 2:3-6** *We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*
- **1 John 3:21-24** *Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*
- **1 John 5:1-5** *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. **This is love for God: to obey his commands.** And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Men, what have you heard as a child? What have you said to your own children? "Will you just do what I ask you to do?" How do we show our love to the Lord?

**By obedience plain and simple.** Every time we question God's commands, we question His authority over our lives. How do you become a man after God's heart? By being obedient! We can choose to obey or not obey. The choice is ours. Do you love God? As the saying goes; proof is in the pudding. Does your life bear witness to your love for Him? What evidence is there of your love for Him?

**Love is obedience men, plain and simple!**