



## Growing in our Passion for God Pt 3: Obeying the LORD with all Our Might! September, 20, 2020

### Text: John 14:15, 21

Last week, as we cast a vision for more passionate love for God, we quickly journeyed through the Bible to be reminded of the great things our LORD did to call us to Himself. Then we said:

- Christians are commanded to love God with every part of themselves and to do so with all our mental, emotional, physical, and willful powers.
- We are commanded to love the LORD with all, with everything, with every fiber of our being in every way and at all times; He is worthy of such! Oh LORD help us to see Thy worthiness! Loving God with “strength” isn’t legalism or asceticism; but it does involve effort! Grace doesn’t mean don’t try!
- To love the LORD our God with all our strength is to:
  1. **Refuse** to be ruled by one’s feelings but rather the truth. (2 Cor 13:8)
  2. **Press** towards the mind of Christ, thinking more in line with Scripture. (1 Cor 2:16)
  3. **Apply** focused effort to meditate upon Him day and night. (Ps 1:2)
  4. **Strain** daily in prayer, supplications, praise and worship. (1 Tim 2:1)
  5. **Strive** against sin to the point of shedding blood. (Heb 12:4)
  6. **Discipline** our bodies and bring them into subjection. (1 Cor 9:27)
  7. **Carry** our crosses daily. (Lk 9:23)

Today, I’d like to similarly set up this idea of “obeying God with all our might” by way of some helpful reminders. There are three reasons for this:

1. I want to encourage you in who you are in Christ.
2. I want to guard against legalism and condemnation.
3. We want your faith and joy to rise as you obey our LORD!

### The Love of God towards You! (The Ordo Salutis)

#### 1. He chose you! (**Election**)

- **Ephesians 1:3-6 (KJV)** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: **4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: **5** Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*
- **John 15:16 (KJV)** *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

#### 2. He called you! (**Calling**)

- **1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*
  - **Romans 8:28 (KJV)** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
3. He changed you! (**Regeneration**)
- **Titus 3:5-7 (KJV)** *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; **6** Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; **7** That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
  - From the Greek: *paliggenesia*: 1) new birth, reproduction, renewal, recreation, regeneration 1a) hence renovation, regeneration, the production of a new life consecrated to God, a radical change of mind for the better. The word often used to denote the restoration of a thing to its pristine state, its renovation, as a renewal or restoration of life after death (Thayer)
4. He convicted you! (**Repentance**)
- **John 16:7-11 (KJV)** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. **8** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **9** Of sin, because they believe not on me; **10** Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; **11** Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*
5. He imparted belief! (**Faith**)
- **Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
  - **Romans 10:17 (KJV)** *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
6. He declared you “not guilty!” (**Justification**)
- **Romans 5:1 (KJV)** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*
  - **Romans 8:30 (KJV)** *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*
  - **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (KJV)** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, **10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*
7. He made you part of His family! (**Adoption**)
- **Romans 8:14-17 (KJV)** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. **15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have*

*received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

8. He set you apart! (**Sanctification**)

- **2 Thessalonians 2:13 (KJV)** *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)** *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

9. He keeps you! (**Perseverance**)

- **John 10:27-28 (KJV)** *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*
- **1 Peter 1:4-5 (KJV)** *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- **Jude 1:24 (KJV)** *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*

10. He will change you again! (**Glorification**)

- **1 Corinthians 15:50-53 (KJV)** *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*
- **Philippians 3:20-21 (KJV)** *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

**Give all this mercy and grace, how can we not Love AND Obey our God? (John 14:15, 21)**

1. Our Text is simple but powerful. Our LORD is in the process of encouraging His disciples in the Upper Room prior to His arrest, trials, and crucifixion.
2. He has washed their feet (Jn 13:1-20), experienced the beginning betrayal of Judas (Jn 13:21-30), and given them the commandment to love one another as He loved them (Jn 13:31-35).
3. He has also encouraged them with these wonderful words:
  - **John 14:1-3 (KJV)** *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I*

go to prepare a place for you. **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4. Sandwiched in between our Text is our LORD's continuing His encouragement; in this case the coming of the Comforter...Holy Spirit! (Jn 14:16-20)
5. Before and after He does so, we commands their *agapaō*, their love, and does so in a certain context.
6. As I mentioned last week, *agapaō* is can be somewhat difficult to define because this sort of love in Scripture is almost always expressed in the context of action.
7. *One might say that "obedience is God's love language!"*
8. So let us take the Scriptures as they are; our Text is ubiquitous in Holy Scripture:
  - **Exodus 20:2-6 (KJV)** *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me. **4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: **5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; **6** And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*
  - **Deuteronomy 7:9 (KJV)** *Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;*
  - **Deuteronomy 11:1 (KJV)** *Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.*
  - **Deuteronomy 11:22-23 (KJV)** *For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; **23** Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.*
  - **Joshua 22:5 (KJV)** *But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.*
  - **Daniel 9:4 (KJV)** *And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;*
  - **John 15:10 (KJV)** *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*
  - **1 John 5:2 (KJV)** *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.*
  - **2 John 1:6 (KJV)** *And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.*
9. Is *agapaō* unconditional? "Yes," if it means God that loves us despite our flaws. "No," if it means love has no requirements:

- **1 John 3:18 (KJV)** *My little children, let us not love (agapaō) in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*
10. Way back in October of 2017, we said, “God desires that our Love for Him be expressed by a joyful, careful, passionate, volitional obedience to Scripture! Christ wants our love for Him to produce a mindset that says, “I will not ignore one jot or tittle of His Word; I will not relax even the least of His Commandments, nor will I teach others to do so!”
  11. Oh dear friends, consider all God has done on your behalf. Let us fully embrace this truth:
    - **1 John 5:3 (KJV)** *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*
    - **1 John 5:3 (NLT)** *Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.*

### **With all our Might!**

1. “Might” is another word for strength. I believe we should seek the LORD, love the LORD, and obey the LORD with all our might.
2. Again, this isn’t about legalism or sinful perfectionism; nor is it about being accepted by God, as we have seen and heard above!
3. **This is about attitude! Change our hearts LORD:**
  - **Psalms 1:1-3 (KJV)** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 **But his delight is in the law of the LORD;** and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 **And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.***
  - **Psalms 119:97 (KJV)** *MEM. **O how love I thy law!** it is my meditation all the day.*
  - **Psalms 119:127-128 (KJV)** ***Therefore I love thy commandments** above gold; yea, above fine gold. 128 **Therefore I esteem all thy precepts** concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.*
  - **Psalms 119:140 (KJV)** *Thy word is very pure: therefore **thy servant loveth it.***

Oh LORD, give us such a heart to love Thy Laws!

### **Closing questions and prayer:**

1. Do you have a true love for God?
2. Can you see that loving God is express through joyful, passionate, humble obedience?
3. To you, is the LORD Jesus worthy of such obedience?
4. Are you aware of anything the LORD has asked you to do that you are resisting?
5. Would you take a moment to pray for an increase of your love for Him?

LORD, we repent for our lack of love. We do love you! Help us to obey you in that love with all our might!

In Jesus’ Name, Amen!