

THE SURRENDER OF MOSES TO GOD'S CALL: THE FRUIT OF OBEDIENCE

EXODUS 04:18–31

Introduction

God had just met Moses at the burning bush. The great call of Moses had just taken place. God wanted Moses to be His messenger, to go and deliver His people from slavery. But Moses did not want to go. He did not want to live a life of service and witness, a life obligated to God. He wanted to be free to live life like he wanted, to do his own thing. Standing there before God, Moses made up excuse after excuse, arguing against God's call. In fact, he argued so long and so much that he angered God. In righteous anger, God insisted that Moses go. Moses was to be God's messenger. No excuse, no argument was valid. Moses was to surrender to God's call: he was to go and proclaim God's glorious message of deliverance and freedom. What happened? The present passage tells us: *The Surrender of Moses to God's Call: The Fruit of Obedience*, Exodus 4:18-31.

- I. Obedience, then God's assurance (vv. 18-19).
- II. Obedience, then God's guidance (vv. 20-23).
- III. Obedience, then God's hand of chastisement was removed (vv. 24-26).
- IV. Obedience, then God fulfilled His promise (vv. 27-31).

I. *Exodus 04:18–19 Obedience and God's Assurance*

First, there was obedience, then God's assurance was given.

1. Moses obeyed God, surrendered to God's call (v. 18). He left the desert and went home to take care of business matters. He began to lay plans to return to Egypt. He had worked for his father-in-law, Jethro, for forty years, so he had to handle whatever business arrangements existed between them. He could not just leave Jethro hanging without making arrangements for a replacement. Moreover, Jethro was the head of the family: the father of Moses' wife and the grandfather of Moses' sons.

The point to note is that Moses was kind and respectful to his wife's father; he did not just pick up and leave. He did not ignore the effect of his leaving upon his wife's family. He asked permission of Jethro; he made arrangements before he left.

Thought 1. God's call demands first loyalty, even before family. But we must always be loving, kind and respectful to our families when we are called to be away from them. And we must help them understand God's call as well as we can.

Mat 10:37-39 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

Luke 9:23-24 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Note another fact as well: Moses did not boastfully mention God's call. He did not act super-spiritual. Think of the great experience he had just had with God, yet he was ever so quiet and humble about the experience.

Mat 18:4 *“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*

Rom 12:3 *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

Phil 2:3-4 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1 Pet 5:5 *Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

2. Once Moses obeyed God, after he had begun to make arrangements to go to Egypt, God gave Moses great assurance. God gave Moses the assurance of safety, security and protection (v. 19). God told Moses that the men who had sought to kill him were now dead. The coast was clear. There was no reason to fear. Remember, Moses had been a wanted man in Egypt. He had killed an Egyptian official forty years earlier, and Pharaoh had put the order out: arrest and execute Moses. Just as it would with any of us, fear had arisen within Moses as he went about making arrangements to return to Egypt.

But God is faithful: here He was giving assurance to Moses. His dear messenger was surrendering to His God-given call. Despite the execution order that hung over his head, Moses was obeying God. He was surrendering to God's call and going forth to deliver God's people. Thus God met Moses to give him assurance: his enemies were all dead. There was no need to fear; he would be safe as he returned to Egypt.

Thought 1. The first fruit of obedience is God's assurance. When we surrender to God's call, surrender to do His will, it is then that God's assurance sweeps over our souls. God assures us; He will take care of us when we obey Him. He will bless us with great assurance and care.

Exo 19:5 *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine.*

Deu 4:30-31 *When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him. For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.*

Deu 5:29 *Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!*

1 Kng 3:14 *“And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”*

Mat 28:19-20 *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always [even], to the very end of the age.”*

John 14:21 *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

John 15:16 *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

James 1:25 *But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.*

Rev 22:14 *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*

II. Exodus 04:20–23 Obedience and God's Guidance

Second, there was obedience, then God's guidance and direction were given.

1. Moses was obedient to God, fully obedient (v. 20). Note that he set out to make a permanent move to Egypt: he took his family with him which included his wife and two sons. Note also that he took the rod of God just as God had instructed him (see Exo 4:17).
2. Again, Moses' obedience bore fruit. As Moses continued to obey God, God continued to meet his need. God now met a very special need of Moses, the need for guidance and direction (vv. 21-23). He needed to know exactly what to do when he reached Egypt and appeared before Pharaoh. And he needed to know before he reached Egypt so that he would have time to meditate and plan the meeting. This need God now met, and how God's heart must have been flooded with joy. For His servant was now obeying Him, obeying despite all the excuses he had against surrendering and obeying. God's servant was now obedient; therefore, God was now able to meet His dear servant and give him guidance and direction. God told Moses to do three things when he reached Egypt.
 - a. Moses was to go to Pharaoh and perform all the miracles God had given him the power to do (v. 21).

b. Moses was, however, to know one thing: God was going to harden Pharaoh's heart so that he would not let the people go (v. 21). God was making sure that Moses was not caught by surprise nor discouraged when Pharaoh rejected his message and refused to free God's people (see *Hardness of Heart*, Exo 4:21).

c. Moses was to proclaim the Word of God. He was to declare three points to Pharaoh:

=> First, Israel was "God's son, even His first-born" (v. 22). This is the first time God referred to Israel as His Son and His first-born. F.B. Huey says:

"In this statement Israel was brought into the closest, most loving and honoured relationship that could be realized in the ancient Near East. The eldest son was given a place of special honour and respect.

- *"He received a double portion of the family inheritance (Deu 21:17).*
- *"The law of redemption applied to him in a special way (Exo 13:11-15).*
- *"He was looked upon as the one who would succeed his father as head of the family or clan.*
- *"He was given preferential status (Gen 43:33), authority (Gen 27:37) and responsibility (Gen 37:22).*
- *"As his birthright, he had claims on the family blessing (Gen 27:1-4, 35-37). (F.B. Huey Jr. Exodus, pp. 34-35. The points are set apart for clarity.)*

=> Second, Pharaoh was to free Israel so that Israel could serve and live for God (v. 23).

=> Third, if Pharaoh refused, God would slay the first-born son of Pharaoh (v. 23).

Thought 1. There is a strong lesson for us in this point: if we do not obey and surrender to God's call, then God cannot guide and direct our lives. Why? Because He would be indulging and giving license to disobedience, rebellion and sin. But when we obey and surrender to God's call, then God can guide and direct our lives. This He promises.

Psa 25:5 *Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.*

Psa 25:9 *He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.*

Psa 48:14 *For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.*

Psa 73:24 *You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.*

Psa 143:10 *Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.*

Isa 30:21 *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*

Luke 1:79 “[Christ came] to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

John 16:13 “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

EXODUS 04:21 HARDENING OF HEARTS

The LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.”
Exodus 04:21

God hardened Pharaoh's heart. What does this mean?

Note these facts:

1. God is said to harden Pharaoh's heart ten different times in *Exodus* (Exo 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17).
2. Pharaoh is said to harden his own heart ten different times (Exo 7:13, 14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 34, 35; 13:15).
3. Three different words are translated *hardened* in the passages dealing with Pharaoh.
 - => There is the Hebrew word *chazaq* which means to be strong or braced or tightened. Thus the idea is that of being strongly against, or braced against or stubborn — to be set against God (Exo 4:21; 7:13, 22; 8:19; 9:12, 35; 10:20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8).
 - => There is the Hebrew word *kabed* which means to be heavy, weighty, or hard. The idea is that of being dull and unresponsive to God's Spirit (Exo 7:14; 8:15, 32; 9:7, 34; 10:1. See 1 S.6:6.)
 - => There is the Hebrew word *qashah* which means to be sharp, severe, cruel, hard. The idea is that of being obstinate (Exo 7:3).
4. Pharaoh hardened his heart long before God is said to have hardened Pharaoh's heart.
 - => Pharaoh hardened his heart against the first miraculous sign performed by Moses, that of turning his rod into a snake (Exo 7:10-13, esp. 13).
 - => Pharaoh hardened his heart against God as a result of the first five plagues. Scripture says that beginning with the sixth sign, God began to harden Pharaoh's heart. (Pharaoh hardened his heart in Exo 7:22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7. God began to harden Pharaoh's heart in Exo 9:12.)

5. Note that here in verse 21 the order of the hardening seems to be given. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and perform the miraculous signs, and then Pharaoh would harden his heart. This would indicate that the hardening of heart would take place after the miraculous signs. Thus the order of events would be:

=> the miraculous signs.

=> the response of Pharaoh: he hardened his heart against the signs.

=> the justice and judgment of God: He hardened Pharaoh's heart.

This is what is known as the *judicial judgment of God* or the *righteous judgment of God*: the judgment that is just and righteous, a judgment that is due, that has to be executed by God who is both righteous and loving. Remember...

- If God is love, He has to execute justice. Love demands that a person be treated justly and fairly, that he be treated with honesty, honour, and decency
- If God is righteous, He has to execute justice. Righteousness demands that a person pay for his transgressions and violations of God's law, that he pay for the penalty for his unrighteous and unlawful acts

Thus Pharaoh's heart was hardened because his heart deserved to be hardened. Pharaoh had...

- worshipped false gods and idols all his life
- lived an ungodly and unrighteous life
- treated others unjustly and unfairly: he brutalized and enslaved people
- rejected the pleas of God time and again, and even rejected the plagues and warnings of God, as God's messenger (Moses) proclaimed the message of God

Pharaoh's heart was hard because he had made it hard through the years, made it hard by the decisions he had made. Time and again he had made decision after decision to do wrong, so much so that he now found it easy to do wrong. His conscience and inner knowledge of righteousness had become hardened, more and more encrusted and rock-like.

The Pulpit Commentary says this:

Men, it is said, harden their own hearts against God; God does not actively interfere to harden the heart of any one.... A supernatural hardening of Pharaoh's heart is not to be thought of. But among the natural punishments which God has attached to sin, would seem to be the hardening of the entire nature of the man who sins.

=> *If men "do not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gives them up to a reprobate mind" (Rom 1:28).*

=> *If they resist the Spirit, he "takes his holy Spirit from them" (Psa 51:11).*

=> *If they sin against light he withdraws the light.*

=> *If they stifle their natural affections of kindness, compassion and the like, it is a law of his providence that those affections shall wither and decay.*

This seems to be the "hardening of the heart" here intended — not an abnormal and miraculous interference with the soul of Pharaoh, but the natural effect upon his soul...[because] of those acts which he wilfully and wrongfully committed, (Exodus. "The Pulpit Commentary," Vol. 1, p. 103. The statements are set apart for clarity).

Alexander Maclaren makes these statements:

=> *"God hardens no man's heart who has not first hardened it himself. "*

=> *"Was not the accumulation of plagues, intended as they were to soften, a cause of hardening?"*

=> *"Does not the gospel, if rejected, harden, making conscience and wills less susceptible?"*

=> *"The same fire softens wax and hardens clay."*

=> *"Whosoever is not brought near is driven farther off by the influences which God brings to bear on us." (Alexander Maclaren. Expositions of Holy Scripture, 11 Vols. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1952-59), Vol. 1, p. 37. The statements are set apart for clarity.)*

Maxie Dunnam gives an excellent application for this discussion:

This is serious business. It is soul business with eternal consequences....To refuse the gospel call upon our lives at any level is to lay another brick in our wall of resistance to God's grace. That's the reason little decisions — responses to what appear to be minor calls — are important. Our obedience to the everyday calls of God is the discipline that equips us to respond faithfully when the big calls come.

What are those everyday calls?

- *to repent; as soon as you sense some sin in your life, repent, come to Christ, be genuinely sorry, beg His forgiveness.*
- *to give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name.*
- *to speak up for that colleague or neighbour who is being maligned by gossip.*
- *to tithe your income as God has called each one of us to do.*
- *"to witness for Christ every time the opportunity arises.*
- *"to live holy lives; to be recognized as set apart, refusing to participate in the immorality that is rampant in our time — cheating, infidelity, deceit, fornication, lying.*

God's call comes to us in some form every day. Every day we have the opportunity to respond to Him. Though it may not be noticeable to us, refusing

these calls will gradually harden our hearts. (Maxie Dunnam. *Mastering the Old Testament, Vol. 2, Exodus.* (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1987), pp. 82-83. The statements are set apart for clarity.)

(See *Hardness of Heart*, Exo 10:1. See outlines and notes, Mt. 13:13-15; Jn. 12:39-41; Rom 1:24; 11:7-10.) □

III. *Exodus 04:24–26 Obedience and Removal of Chastisement*

Third, there was obedience, then God's hand of chastisement was removed. What now happened to Moses stands as a warning to all believers and servants of God.

1. Moses was obeying God and was on his way to Egypt when God's hand of chastisement fell upon him (v. 24). Why? Because he was deliberately disobeying God in a particular area of his life, a critical area.

What happened was this: Moses and his family had stopped and set up camp for the night. Then suddenly Moses became very sick and was about to die. Note what Scripture says was happening: God had met Moses and was about to slay him (v. 24). This means that God was chastising and correcting Moses, and the chastisement was severe: Moses was about to die. Here he was surrendering to God's call to go and proclaim the glorious message of deliverance, yet God began to severely chastise him. What could Moses be doing that was so bad? What was it that he was not surrendering to God, that he was holding back and refusing to correct? What was Moses doing that displeased God so much that God would stop using Moses and take him on home to heaven?

2. Scripture tells us: Moses' wife had apparently objected to circumcision, bitterly objected to it. She caused so much strife that Moses just gave in to his wife. He put his wife and her objections before God. In order to keep peace in the home, he gave in to his wife. He chose to avoid the fussing and arguing of his wife instead of obeying God. He disobeyed God and did not circumcise his son (v. 25). Remember three critical facts about circumcision.

First, circumcision was *the sign* of the covenant between God and man. God had given circumcision to teach His people to have no confidence in the flesh. The cutting away of the flesh was the picture (the symbol and sign) that the true believer was not to place his trust in the flesh. He was to put his trust in God. (Phil 3:3; Col 2:11-12). Remember this fact: When God made this covenant with Abraham, he was the least likely to become a father of many nations (Gen 17:4-6). Given his failure to have children with Sarah, G.E. Farley notes:

[Abraham's] circumcision may have meant symbolically: I am yielding my powers of procreation, my stake in the future to Yahweh. I am becoming totally dependent upon Him. If I have descendants enough to be a great nation it will be

Yahweh's doing, not my own. One can imagine that this was the supreme sacrifice for the ancient patriarch. (Merrill C. Tenney, Editor. *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 1. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982), p. 866.)

Second, circumcision was the sign that a man trusted God, that he was a true follower of God, that he was a true believer in the great promises of God:

- => The promise of the promised land (see note, Exo 1:1-22; 1:6-7; 2:23-25. For more details see notes Gen 12:1.)
- => The promise of the promised seed, including both the seed of a great nation of people and the one particular seed, the Saviour and Messiah of the world. (See notes, Exo 1:1-22; 1:6-7; 2:23-25. See also notes, Gen 12:2-3; 12:3.)

These promises are of critical importance to both God and man. They are the very basis of God's great covenant with man: the promise of heaven and the promise of the Saviour, God's very own Son. It is God's Son who makes it possible for man to enter heaven and to live forever with God.

Third, God Himself stressed the critical importance of circumcision. Note Gen 17:10-14 where God commanded Abraham to circumcise every male child on the eighth day after birth. This was to be the sign that the father and his family were true believers and followers of God and His great promises. The critical importance of circumcision is also seen in God's other commandment to Abraham: any uncircumcised male was to be *cut off* and *separated* from the people; he was not a believer and follower of God. He had broken the covenant of God (Gen 17:10-14).

- => How then could Moses lead the people unless he himself obeyed God?
- => How could Moses teach the covenant to people if he refused to circumcise his own son?
- => How could Moses teach people to love and obey God unless he loved and obeyed God?
- => How could Moses teach people to put God first if he put his wife first?
- => How could Moses be the servant and messenger of God if he was unwilling to obey God in the very basic sign of God's great covenant?

On and on the questions go, but the point is made: God had to correct Moses. God had to chastise Moses so that Moses would do what he needed to do: obey God and circumcise his son. The very man whom God was choosing to be the great lawgiver to the world, Moses himself, had to be corrected by God, severely chastened. He was disobeying God in one of the most basic commandments of God, that of bearing the sign of the covenant, circumcision.

3. Note that Moses' wife circumcised their son, but she apparently did it in anger, disgust and with a rebellious spirit (v. 25). She was obviously against circumcision so much that she took the foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet as he lay there in

bed dying. She angrily cried out: "You are a husband of blood to me." She was in rebellion against God, bitter rebellion.

4. God then removed His hand of chastisement and saved Moses (v. 26). Moses recovered his health and resumed his journey to Egypt. Note: Moses apparently sent his wife and children back home after this, back to her father, Jethro.
 - Her bitter rebellion against God almost cost Moses his life
 - Her rebellion would have been a devastating hindrance to the purpose of God and to the ministry of Moses. (See note, Exo 18:1-8.)

Thought 1. We must obey God in all areas of our lives. We must not hold anything back; we must surrender everything we are and have to God. If not, then God has no choice: He must correct and chastise us. God must discipline us when we disobey and go astray. God must do all He can to keep us from sin and the terrible results of sin. God must keep us from harming and hurting ourselves, from destroying our lives, our testimony, and our witness for Him. God must chastise us, make us sit up, take notice, and correct ourselves before we go too far.

Deu 8:5 *Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.*

Psa 94:12 *Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD, the man you teach from your law.*

Prov 3:11-12 *My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.*

John 15:2 *"He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."*

Heb 12:5-7 *And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?"*

Rev 3:19 *Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.*

IV. Exodus 04:27–31 Obedience and the Fulfilment of God's Promise

Fourth, there was obedience, then God fulfilled His promise. While God was calling and dealing with Moses, a wonderful thing was happening to his brother Aaron. God was working in Aaron's heart as well, calling and preparing him to serve right by the side of Moses — all as God had promised Moses.

1. Note Aaron's call and obedience: God called him to go into the wilderness and meet Moses (vv. 27-28). This he did: he met up with Moses at the Mount of God itself, Mt. Sinai. The reunion must have been glorious. They kissed each other and, no doubt, Aaron shared all that had happened to the family during the 40 year absence

of Moses. Then Moses shared with Aaron, shared God's call and the power God had given him to work signs and miracles before the people. After the reunion, Moses and Aaron journeyed to Egypt together.

2. When they reached Egypt, they obeyed God: they gathered together all the elders of Israel (vv. 30-31).

=> Aaron shared what God had told Moses. Remember: God had appointed him to be the spokesman for Moses (see vv. 14-16).

=> Moses performed the miracles (see Exo 4:3-9). Remember: God had commissioned Moses to perform the signs. Because of this the personal pronoun "he" should probably be inserted before "did the signs" to indicate that they were performed by Moses and not Aaron. (George Bush. *Exodus*. (Minneapolis, MN: Klock & Klock Christian Publishers, Inc., 1981), p. 71.)

3. God's wonderful promise to Moses was fulfilled: the people believed and they bowed down, worshipping God (v. 31). The message that God cared for them and was deeply concerned about their suffering stirred a great hope within the people. Picture the scene:

=> There stood Moses, the great former prince of Egypt, who had been in exile for over forty years. And there stood Aaron, his brother, by his side, one of their leaders whom they deeply respected and had known for so many years.

=> There was the great message of deliverance that had just been proclaimed to them by Aaron, the message from the LORD God, the Great I AM Himself.

=> There were the extraordinary miracles just performed by Moses before their very eyes.

All this aroused within their hearts the deepest emotions imaginable: they were about to be freed, freed by the power of God Himself. Joy, hope and expectancy flooded their hearts. A deep sense of God's care and love flowed through their bodies. A spirit of thankfulness and praise to God gripped their souls. Thus, they fell to their knees and worshipped God. In the words of George Bush:

All conspired to produce in their breasts the deepest emotions of wonder and joy; a strong confidence in God; and an assurance that he was indeed about to show them mercy. In testimony of this...the whole assembly bowed their heads and worshipped. (Ibid., p. 71.)

Thought 1. When we obey God, God fulfils His promises — always. First obedience; then fulfilment. Obedience always bears fruit, the fruit of God's presence, love and blessing.

Exo 19:5 *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine.*

Exo 23:25 *Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you.*

Deu 5:29 *Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!*

Josh 1:8 *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

1 Kng 3:14 *And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."*

Mat 6:33 *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Mat 7:21 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."*

John 14:21 *"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

John 14:23 *Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."*

John. 15:10 *"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love."*

John 15:14 *"You are my friends, if you do what I command."*

Rev 22:14 *"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. ■"*