

REMEMBER THE LOVE YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED AND OBEY GOD DEUTERONOMY 11:01–07

Introduction

Certain things — requirements — are necessary in order to maintain any relationship. Certain kinds of behaviour are required. Requirements are necessary in order to maintain order and build strength of character. For example, what are the requirements established — what kind of behaviour is expected — by your parents, school, employer, wife, husband, neighbour, civic club or government? We become stronger persons when we fulfil those requirements. But before we can fulfil them, we must know what the requirements are.

This was a great concern to Moses as the leader of the Israelites. Certain requirements were demanded by God. Moses was concerned that the Israelites might not understand God's requirements. Yet understanding was absolutely essential, for the requirements would determine their eternal fate. If they fulfilled the requirements of God, they would live victorious lives. *The Supreme Requirement is of Obedience.*

Remember what you have experienced; love and obey God (vv. 11:1-7).

Deuteronomy 11:01–07 Remember Your Experiences and Obey God

What does the LORD God require of you? Love and obey God. And remember what you have experienced. Learn from your past and this will help you to love and obey God. Moses exhorted the people to remember the power of God, how God had mightily saved them and guided them in the past. If they would stay focused upon the glorious experiences of the past, this would encourage them to love and obey God.

1. Note how Moses exhorted the people. He shouted out, it was not your children who experienced the discipline and the greatness and power of God (vv. 2-4). It was not your children who experienced the salvation of God from Egypt, who saw the signs and terrible plagues that fell upon Egypt (v. 3). It was not your children who witnessed the power of God that kept you from being recaptured and enslaved by the enemy, who witnessed His power in destroying the pursuing army in the Red Sea (v. 4).
 2. Note how Moses continued to exhort the people: it was not your children who experienced God's guidance through the wilderness wanderings, nor His judgment upon the sinners and rebels who followed Dathan and Abiram. It was not your children who saw God miraculously cause an earthquake that swallowed them, their families and all their possessions.
 3. But remember, it was *you* who personally experienced the great things God did (v. 7). It was *you* who were saved by God from Egypt, from its bondage and enslavement. It was *you* who personally saw the terrible judgment of God against the Egyptians.
-

It was *you* who witnessed His power in destroying their pursuing army in the Red Sea. It was *you* who personally experienced God's guidance through the wilderness wanderings. Moreover, *you* witnessed the power of God's judgment against sinners and rebels when He caused an earthquake to swallow the followers of Dathan and Abiram. *You* have personally experienced the discipline or chastisement of God. *You* have personally witnessed God's majesty, His mighty hand, His outstretched arm, His awesome power. Remember what *you* have experienced; love and obey God. This is what the LORD God requires of *you*.

Thought 1. What does the LORD God require of us? That we love and obey Him and that we remember what we have experienced with Him. Remembering the past will stir us to love and obey God. Just think for a moment:

God has saved us from Egypt, that is, from the world with all its enslavements and bondages: saved us from sin, condemnation and hell to come. God has marvellously saved us.

=> God guides us day by day through the wilderness wanderings of this world, giving us a victorious life. He empowers us to conquer all the enemies — all the trials and temptations of life — that attempt to destroy us and to keep us out of the promised land of heaven.

=> God disciplines or chastises us, corrects us when we need it in order to keep us from injuring ourselves or damaging our testimony. God has done so much for us that we owe Him our allegiance. We must, therefore, love and obey Him. And we must remember the past, all the wonderful things He has done for us. Remembering the past will encourage us to love and obey Him.

(1) God demands, requires that we love Him.

Deut 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Psa 31:23 Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

2 Th 3:5 May the LORD direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our LORD Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

(2) God demands that we keep His commandments, obey Him.

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

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.”*

Acts 5:29 *Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!”*

Deut 26:16 *The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.*

1 Sam 15:22 *But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.” ■*