



Lovely Commandments

*“Loving God means keeping his commandments, and **his commandments are not burdensome** .”*

1 John 5:3 NLT

The reason His commandments are not burdensome is because they flow from a place of love, and when you truly love Him, obedience doesn't feel like obligation. At the same time this verse can be a little confusing, because obeying God means you die to yourself, which is never an easy thing to do. Temptation is burdensome, but obedience is not. Getting to the finish line of obedience means you have overcome temptation. The deep love you have for Christ, drawn out by His compelling nature, is what carries you there by His grace.

And the only reason you desire to love Him in the first place is because He first loved you. He wants to restore you to a former glory, the way it was before the fall of Adam and Eve. Honor Him with your body, mind, and soul, because your soul is the thing at stake, and that means death and separation for all eternity.

Reflect

Where in your walk with God does obedience feel like a burden, and what does that reveal about where your heart is?



Be the Light

“Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble .”

1 John 2:10 NLT

Love is always the evidence that the light of God is within a believer, especially when that love is in action. Whether it's serving others, being self-sacrificing with your time, money, or possessions, or praising God without shame, it's actually doing something and not just saying you're a Christian, but living it out by loving others who are also in fellowship with Christ. We forget to love because of the way our culture runs and just the way modern-day society is. Everything is about protecting your opinion, protecting your feelings, and protecting your things. All this junk that just doesn't matter in the end. Show each other real love so that, in the end, we have true fellowship with Jesus Christ and are loving like Him and not like the world.

Loving a fellow believer doesn't mean you're just a good buddy or a nice pal. No. Loving a fellow believer means you would die for them. When Christ says we are to love like Him, He describes what His love actually looks like, and that is laying your life down unto the point of death. Not worrying about yourself constantly. In Scripture, Jesus never worried about Himself. The King of the universe did not care about how He was treated. He just knew that the will of the Father was greater than what He could say or how He could react.

Reflect

Is there someone in your life you've been treating like a stranger instead of a brother, and what would it look like to love them the way Christ loves you?



Lovely Obedience

*“And this is love: that **we walk in obedience to his commands** . As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.”*

2 John 1:6 NIV

To walk in love is to walk in obedience, and obedience is the ultimate picture of love, because you're saying to God, "Your will be done." But it's not enough to only obey. We have to check our hearts and ask where that obedience is coming from. The source matters more than we think. Real obedience has to come from a place of genuine, wholehearted desire to please Him. Because if we're not careful, we can find ourselves doing good works in our own strength thinking we're pleasing God, when really the only one being pleased is us.

That is selfishness, not love. Real obedience is the picture of sacrificial love, and we are called to live this out just as Christ did. He was obedient even unto death, but 100% innocent. He pleaded with the Father if there was another way, but there wasn't. And yet He still rose, walked that road, and went to the cross for every one of us, because of love. Lay your life down and live holy and righteous, just as He has called you to do.

Reflect

When you obey God, is it coming from a genuine love for Him or from obligation, and how can you tell the difference?



The Prodigal

*“If you see a fellow believer sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and **God will give that person life** . But there is a sin that leads to death, and I am not saying you should pray for those who commit it.”*

1 John 5:16 NLT

What’s interesting about this verse is that it doesn’t specify whether or not you should confront a struggling believer or call them out. We are often taught in Scripture to handle situations like this by pointing out their wrongdoing. But here it is different. Why is that? The Scripture here is clear in this instance: “if their sin is not leading to death, pray.” This passage is not trying to say “don’t confront wrong,” instead it’s saying that some things don’t need to always be confronted, but instead faithfully prayed for, and this creates a balance. And this matters because prayer like this is an act of faith that says, “I believe Christ is at work in this person’s life and I am not capable of saving them from anything.” That will always ultimately be up to Him. It is Christ’s work to deal with believers when we miss the mark, not ours. Then there are those we aren’t exactly commanded to pray for: those who have experienced the deep love of Christ and His nature, yet chose to walk away and return to sin.

So how should we treat such a “believer?” Galatians 6:1 tells us that “you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path.” Even though we don’t necessarily need to pray for them, we are still expected to treat them the way Christ would. Jesus already showed us how to handle a person like this, and it looks like the prodigal son. Once the prodigal returns, welcome them back. They were once lost, but now are found. So receive them with open arms, not discontent, not shame, not dissatisfaction, not even sadness, but with overwhelming joy and gladness, because the Lord Jesus was always working to bring them back! The key factor when Scripture mentions sin that leads to death is not even that the nature of sin is so dangerous, but the fact that when you walk away, you are cutting yourself off from the only source of eternal life. And that leads to death.

Reflect

Are you treating the people in your life who have walked away from Christ with the overwhelming joy and open arms of the prodigal son’s father, or with discontent and disappointment?



Idols

*“Dear children, **keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts** .”*

1 John 5:21 NLT

A clear and direct command, and one that we should always obey. What do idols do? For one, they can lie in secret, tricking you into thinking that your relationship with God won’t become damaged because of them. Idols will trick you into thinking your addiction is okay, that it’s just a “frequent activity” or “it’s what works for me.” The very problem with those statements is that we often don’t realize how selfish they really are, keeping you far from His love. Idols keep you attached to yourself, to what you want and what you desire, and that will slowly suck the life out of you. Being drawn by Jesus is more than just giving up an addiction, saying no to drugs, or stopping what you look at in secret. It’s about being transformed and actually wanting to live differently, not simply escaping what’s trying to tear you down.

Because when you get to the end of the line, you need Jesus more than you need to try and fix yourself. And guess what? You will fail on your own. You will never save yourself. If you want to do practical things to help yourself, go ahead, but if you believe with your whole heart that He can change you, then everything you try to do in your own discipline will mean nothing compared to the glory that is in Christ. If you want a change, and you must genuinely want to change, your heart has to look like Christ’s. Being drawn by His Spirit, overwhelmed by His strength and integrity every single day, devoted to Him and wanting what He wants. Removing an idol doesn’t happen overnight. It takes death to self, a lot of submission, and running from sin so that Jesus can fight the battle He has already won.

Reflect

If you truly love the Father, what are you still holding onto that you know is keeping you from Him, and are you really willing to let it go?



The Perfect Standard

*“Those who say they live in God **should live their lives as Jesus did** .”*

1 John 2:6 NLT

When John says those who live in God should live their lives as Jesus did, he is setting the standard. Not a suggestion, not something to admire from a distance, but the standard. Jesus is the line in the sand for what a surrendered life actually looks like. He walked it out perfectly in human form so that we would have something real to follow, not just a concept of living, but a Person. The Perfect One. This can feel heavy. Because if Jesus is the standard, then who could ever measure up? On your own, you never will, and that's the whole point. This verse was never a call to try harder in your own strength to measure up to His perfection. If it were, it would crush you every single day and you'd only condemn yourself. Thank God that is not the case!

Here is the beauty of it: the same power that is in Christ now lives in you. The same power that carried that 200 pound cross 600 meters uphill lives in you! The power to become free from sin's pull lives in you! Given as a gift! So when John says walk as Jesus walked, he is not just handing you a demand, he is handing you a promise. And it is possible. Not because you are strong enough, but because He is in you. The standard and the power to meet the standard come from the same place, Him, and you have to believe it. So stop just striving and start actually walking in His Spirit. Let Him live through you. That is what it means to live in God, to let the life of Jesus become your life. He is our life. (Colossians 3:4)

Reflect

Do your actions say you live like Christ, or are they just words?



Sin Fades, He Remains

*“And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But **anyone who does what pleases God will live forever** .”*

1 John 2:17 NLT

This verse serves as an important reminder that the world we live in will not last, and we who believe will not fade away with it. The world is fading away, but there is One who will never fade. His name is Jesus, and if you do what He wills, obey His commands, pursue His love, and walk like He calls you to walk, then you can be sure you will live a life with full assurance of your eternity. Think of it this way: if the world is fading away and everything with it, and you are living in the ways of the world, then you will fade away with it as well. Forgotten, cast into hell, all because you gave in to your flesh and feelings and wants and desires.

The only thing that should fade away within you is sin. And as you consume the Word and walk like Jesus, you will begin to see things differently, act differently, and suddenly what used to be a part of you has faded away. Praise the Lord! We have to look at sin this way: it is something that will fade away and cannot touch you if you have full assurance in the Lord Jesus. But if you fear it, identify with it, think that you are too weak, hence forgetting where your strength comes from, then it will catch up to you and you will be in bondage.

Reflect

Are you fading away with the world and its sin, or are you letting your sin fade away as you become more like Christ?



Compelled to be Complete

*“But those who obey God’s word **truly show how completely they love him** . That is how we know we are living in him.”*

1 John 2:5 NLT

Obedience in a believer’s heart is the proof of complete love. The best part is that it’s His love that compels us to obey Him in the first place, drawing us into complete love for Him. Not partial love. Not somewhat, kinda, sorta love. No. Complete. Every believer should know what this love feels like in their heart. Picture the Father’s face as He looks down on you. He should see you walking in a worthy manner because you love Him so deeply. He is an awesome force, worthy of love, obedience, and praise. True obedience should never be out of obligation, because His love is so completely perfect.

Obedience to Him means having freedom, not being bound by a set of rules and burdens with no genuine heart change, with God shaking His finger down on you. To be free means you desire Him more than what your body wills and wants because of His great and awesome love! You should know that you are Christ’s if you see that your life produces obedience and true love for the Father. Obedience proves this love, and Jesus is the standard for what a surrendered life looks like.

Reflect

Do you limit how much you love Him because you don’t believe obedience is possible for you?



No Mercy for Sin

*“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But **if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father** . He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.”*

1 John 2:1 NLT

Our goal in life should always be to not sin. And we're not talking about perfection, we're talking about holiness, walking by the power of the Spirit. So if you do sin, not when, Jesus won't back out. Instead He will be right there to push you back onto course, to tell you He loves you, to remind you of who you are, and love you no matter what. This can be confusing at times, because if this is written for us to not sin, then why does there seem to be the possibility that it might happen again? Here's the difference: willful sin is a decision made with full awareness of what you're doing, because you don't have the Spirit guiding and directing your thoughts, emotions, desires, or actions. There's no wrestling with it, no resistance against it, just getting annihilated by it and choosing your way over what you already know is right.

It's not a stumble or a slip up, it's something you stepped into all on your own. A habit that needs to be broken is different. This is the sin you hate, that you want to kill, the one you turn from to pick up your cross with the power that raised Christ from the dead, the one you're actively fighting, the one that hurts you the moment you fall into it. That hurt, that resistance, is the evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in you, and that your heart is softened, because a hardened heart doesn't fight against its own wants, it befriends them. When temptation comes knocking, you run or you fight to the death. Either way, it should end in the death of your flesh.

Reflect

If you sin, does it keep you up at night, or do you sleep soundly?



Die Daily, Live Fully

*“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. **We know we love God’s children if we love God and obey his commandments .**”*

1 John 5:1-2 NLT

You want to know your true identity? Believe in Jesus. To be a child of God does not only mean that you’re called something that sounds good, something that makes you feel all warm and fuzzy. It’s a calling. You are called a special name and given a special purpose from the One who is above every name. Keep in mind that this new name and new purpose will require the crucifixion and death of your flesh every day. If you want to live out your true identity in Christ, you must die. It doesn’t come only because you simply say “I love Jesus!” No. Every day you have to get out of bed ready to serve, ready to love, and ready to die. Wake up every day with this mindset: I’m ready to face anything that comes my way, because I have the mind of Christ and He gives me strength.

It is not I who live, but Christ in me. His love will be shown in and through you as you continue to desire His heart over your flesh. If you want to walk in the victory that Jesus has destined for anybody who believes in Him, and you want to be free from sin and condemnation, you have to actually believe that He is capable, and that you don’t have any tricks up your sleeve to make your flesh less sinful on your own. There is not even an ounce of good in anyone who does not have Christ in their heart. There is only death and separation for those who don’t.

Reflect

Are you ready to live out your life as you’ve been called to by Christ, or are you just going to keep sinning?



All or Nothing

*“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. **For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions** . These are not from the Father, but are from this world.”*

1 John 2:15-16 NLT

Not only will a love for the world separate you from the Father’s love, but it will also make you incapable of loving like the Father. The love of the world is a counterfeit version of what actual love is. It’s nowhere close to what real love is. The world offers lust and pleasure. Things like porn, hooking up, drinking to get drunk, constantly worrying about your social media presence, always prioritizing yourself and your needs over everyone else, and pride in your belongings, endeavors, and accomplishments. All of these things are selfish and self-centered, and will leave you empty with no purpose. If the goals you are setting don’t match the standard that God has set, then you have already failed. You cannot have one foot in serving God on Sunday and one foot out serving the world six days a week, because in reality you’re not even serving Him once a week, your life is evidently prioritizing the world.

If you can’t serve Him with all of your heart, all of your mind, and all of your strength, like you are commanded to, then you must die to your flesh. And yes, it is possible, because nothing can overcome the love of God. The way you live out your faith has to look like the standard that Christ set, because it is what has been commanded of us, and there is no middle ground and no compromises. If you are truly living out your walk with Christ faithfully, then you will not desire the things that used to drag you down. What used to make you stumble should now gross you out, because of the overwhelming love that has filled the void in your heart.

Reflect

Are you only going to church to feel better about yourself so you can say, “I serve God,” or are you actually living it out?



Kingdom of Heaven

*“And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and **there is no sin in him** .”*

1 John 3:5 NLT

Jesus was perfect in every single way, and He was the only one who could remove sin, because He could not be condemned by it, He could not be blamed by it, and He could never be found guilty of it. Jesus also faced real challenges, temptations, pressure from everyone who hated Him, and opportunities to fail, but He always displayed victory. Yet He became sin on our behalf as a willful choice, because of His great love for us, a love so great that He died for us, setting the standard of what true love is all about. This love has been given to us as a way to show others who Christ is. He lives in you. We have to remember that Jesus did not come just as a better way to atone for our sins so we could have an easier road into heaven.

No. The whole purpose of His coming was to show us how to live like Him, giving up ourselves to Him as an offering so that our lives can be reconciled and restored, so that He becomes our life, the One steering the ship, and ultimately so we could have victory over sin, and sin could no longer have victory over us. As Christ followers, we must remember not to get too wrapped up in the things to come after we die. Our life on earth is meant to be lived with the intention of bringing the glory of heaven down to earth, so that other people can see the light of God shine in and through you, and know there is something different about you, because you serve the one true living God, Jesus Christ.

Reflect

If someone watched your life closely, would they see heaven's glory in you because you serve Jesus?



Break Free, Remain Free

“Dear children, don’t let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous .”

1 John 3:7 NLT

Righteousness is the evidence of a life lived in the light of Christ’s righteousness. It’s not what you do that makes you righteous in the sight of God, it’s because of who Jesus is and because He lives inside of you. His righteousness is put on display for the blind to witness, and even other Christians. Watch out for modern-day heresies and those who tell you that righteousness isn’t possible for you, or that God is only a mere addition onto your depraved self. No. He is your life, and you belong to Him (Colossians 3:3-4). It is Christ’s righteousness that has been given to everyone who accepts, believes, and obeys Him. He has given you the strength to break free and remain free. Let no one tell you otherwise. You are His, and He holds you securely.

To be righteous even as Christ is righteous is an insane standard that no one could ever live up to on their own. This becomes true only if you are not continually walking in the Spirit. If your flesh and sin do not gross you out, because you are walking by His Spirit, then of course it becomes inevitable for you to fall back into sin. Nobody could truly ever live up to this standard before Jesus came to exemplify it. The Holy Spirit testified of everything that Christ did, and the Holy Spirit was given to everyone who believes, as a gift. A gift of power. The Spirit gives us this power to live a life centered around Christ. Christ is not merely an add-on, He is life itself, and you are hidden in it.

Reflect

Have you believed the lie that even as you are in Christ you are still unrighteous?



The Two Laws

“Everyone who sins is breaking God’s law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God .”

1 John 3:4 NLT

Sin and the breaking of God’s law is not only addressed to unbelievers, but also to believers who know better. Jesus came to destroy this, so why keep living under the law of sin (Romans 8:2)? God has a law, and it is perfect, forever flowing with purpose and calling, whereas the law of sin is life lived with no calling and no purpose. He has called you out of the darkness, not only because darkness is contrary to the light, but because of His deep love for you, not just because you aren’t listening to Him. He’s not a God ruling with a stick, pointing out every wrong. But He does want you to see that if there is any darkness in your life, it needs to be expunged, so you can live fully, because this is what Jesus died for.

If you look at it this way, because Christ has opened your eyes through faith, then your soul will surely be saved. The practice of sin is especially against the law of God, because it is a willful, wicked, premeditated action against the will of God. What makes it so wicked is that every time someone sins, the image of God becomes distorted more and more. Bitterness, anger, unforgiveness, and being unloving all go against the image of God. This is what Jesus came for, to restore the image, to restore freedom, and restore real love. We needed a perfect human example of what godliness was all about. Jesus has given it to us, so live it out. Forgive others. Drop the grudge. Have patience. Be loving.

Reflect

If someone who didn’t know Christ were to look at your life, would they see you bearing the image of God, or would you be just another somebody to them?



Love Means Obedience

*“If someone claims, ‘I know God,’ but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, **that person is a liar and is not living in the truth** .”*

1 John 2:4 NLT

We know that having knowledge of God doesn’t always mean that you really know Him. If someone claims to know Him but doesn’t obey, they lie. To obey means you truly know Him, not that you just have memorized knowledge of Him. So what does true knowledge look like? It starts with true love. We have to keep in mind that there’s a difference when we look at knowledge in a believer. Does this knowledge come from a place of wanting to know Him so that you can live like Him, or do you just learn about God so you can check a box and feel better about your life? If you really want to pursue knowledge of God because you want to pursue Him, then the more you learn about Him, the more you will want to obey Him. To live in the truth is to know the truth.

We as believers are supposed to embody this truth, not only because we are commanded to, but because we should adapt to it as a natural process of growth. We adapt into His obedience. Obedience should be the natural inclination of every believer, but some teach that it’s “too hard anyway,” or “it’s just not possible,” when really the truth is God sent His own Son to die a death so brutal and impactful, so that you could live in a place of obedience instead of rules and base knowledge about God. Jesus bridged the gap of mere rule following, defeated death, and established freedom. It all starts with a love for God, which produces desire, which produces real obedience. Not obligation.

Reflect

Does your knowledge of God reflect the byproduct of obedience, or is it just mere knowledge of who God is?



Persevering Saints

“But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it . Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.”

Colossians 1:23 NLT

Genuine faith perseveres. It does not waver. It does not fear. It does not drift away. It does not have an ounce of unbelief. Our assurance is found when we firmly stand on the truth, the truth that reconciliation brings. Because you have been reconciled, perseverance must become a part of who you are. Your everyday life has to look as Christ modeled. Growth in Christ requires you to carry your cross like Christ. Continually expand your knowledge of Christ. Never settle into where you currently are; keep discovering more about Him, for He is eternal, and there will always be more to know. In the same way, continually expand your faith so that you come to understand who God truly is. When things get uncomfortable, in times where it feels like all hope is lost, that's when faith will be your greatest weapon against hopelessness. When you are tempted to fall back into your old ways and it feels as though it's impossible to resist, remember there's a way of escape. That way of escape is the perseverance that He provides. It is only achieved through submission to God.

Perseverance requires leaning on Him. When you lean on Christ, don't take what He gives you for granted. Too often, leaning on Him becomes something we only do when life gets hard, when circumstances feel difficult and taxing. Don't let that be the only reason you turn to Him. Truly leaning on Him means submitting everything you do and everything you are to His will. The goal is to be more like Him in every single way. This is a daily practice that you must get used to if you claim Christ as your Lord. When you're driving to work, and someone cuts you off, where is your perseverance? When waiting in line at the gas pump, where is your perseverance? When a family member says something to you that you may not like, where is your perseverance? Seek it. Perseverance will always be something you have to gain more of because our daily lives require it. We must be dependent on His strength. His strength is found the more we depend on Him to strip us of our flesh. Perseverance means you die to everything that you were so that you can live for all that He is. Life is found in the death of your flesh.

Reflect

Does your life look like one that is submitted to the will of God so that perseverance can have its perfect work in you, or have you lost hope?



Comfortable with Discomfort

“ I am glad when I suffer for you in my body , for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church.”

Colossians 1:24 NLT

Paul was imprisoned, stoned, beaten, and persecuted for the gospel. The man who once killed Christians was now being persecuted by the same people that he used to be associated with. When we read this text, we should be so grateful for what he was willing to endure for the sake of the gospel. Maybe we should ask ourselves a question as well. Would you suffer for just one person the way that Paul suffered for entire churches? Would you give up even little things? Would you give up being validated the way you want to? Would you give up the need to be right? Would you give up needing to say the right thing in order to be correct? Would you give up the things of the flesh to let Christ shine? We can barely even call these things “hardships” that should be no-brainers for us Christians. So the real question is, if you're not willing to do these little things, then what are you willing to do for the sake of Christ? Let joy be the reason you are even drawn to do such things that are beyond your comfort for the sake of Christ. The joy of the Lord is the reason any hardship is possible to endure.

Where is this joy found? It is found in knowing that your suffering connects you to Christ's own suffering, you're not suffering alone or for nothing, you're suffering alongside Him, for the same purpose He did. Just like we are to identify with the resurrection, we identify with His death, because there would've been no resurrection without His death. This means that no matter how you are afflicted, physically, mentally, or spiritually, if it is for the sake of who Jesus is, your identity in Christ should be the very thing that moves you to be sacrificial. Your identity in Christ allows you to endure anything. Your identity in Christ gives you freedom from what temptation used to produce. Remember that the Lord will always provide you the endurance needed for any such hardships. No matter what it is that you need to give up for the sake of your own soul or for someone else, remember that what you need matters less than what Christ requires from you. Die daily for Him. Die daily to yourself. Die daily for others.

Reflect

Do you live your life in a state of knowing that no matter what you have to endure, no matter what you have to give up, it doesn't matter because Christ is the one in control?



Holy, Obedient, Strong

*“So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. **We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ** . That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.”*

Colossians 1:28-29 NLT

Paul's entire mission was based on the investment into the lives of people in need of Jesus. His mission was not easy. He was persecuted time and time again for Jesus' namesake. Although it doesn't stop there, we know that Paul was only reliant on the work of Christ, His mighty power, which Paul identifies himself with. Paul labors with all of his heart and struggles, but he doesn't forget the reason he is doing it, he doesn't make struggle his ultimate identity, and he certainly doesn't forget where his strength comes from. Why do we sometimes forget where our strength comes from? We forget because of the things we can tell ourselves. Things like: I'm not good enough, I'm not strong enough, I'm not resilient enough. In ways we struggle like Paul did. Although there's not much to compare, he was stoned and beaten, but he never lost hope or forgot where his strength came from. Paul held the belief that Christ lived in him so dearly. Paul never gave up because Jesus never gave up. Remember that it is Christ in you that gives you all the victory, freedom, glory, and love.

In order to remember where our strength comes from, we must take the warnings from Scripture with sincerity and reverence. If we forget that we live in a world that hates us and we unknowingly conform to it, we will lose. Paul came to teach the wisdom of the gospel because of Christ's example. We must remember where our strength comes from and to be watchful, and let the power of Christ do wonderful works in our lives, so that we can be a spotless bride. When our Lord comes back, it is His will to find you in a state of holiness and obedience. Live your life as though He is already here, standing next to you. Like the way Paul labored fervently for the souls of mankind, we must also pray, seek wisdom, and be the bride who is prepared for Christ. Being the bride for Christ also means you are bringing others into marriage with our Lord. You must also labor like Paul for the souls of mankind. Depend on Christ's mighty power. His power does wonderful works. Depend on Christ's wisdom. His wisdom will keep you watchful. Take joy in the struggle. It produces righteousness. Love like Him, for it is His will.

Reflect

Do you labor and struggle knowing that it is for the betterment of others and your growth in Christ, or do you worry about how it affects your life?