



## "OBEY AND ABIDE"

*Jesus said: "If ye keep My commandments,  
ye shall abide in My love." John 15:10*

In our former meditation reference was made to the entrance into a life of rest and strength which has often come through a true insight into the personal love of Christ, and the assurance that that love indeed meant that He would keep the soul.

In connection with that transition, and the faith that sees and accepts it, the word *surrender* or *consecration* is frequently used. The soul sees that it cannot claim the keeping of this wonderful love unless it yields itself to a life of entire obedience. It sees too that the faith that can trust Christ for keeping from sinning must prove its sincerity by venturing at once to trust Him for strength to obey. In that faith, it dares to give up and cut off everything that has hitherto hindered it, and to promise and expect to live a life that is well pleasing to God.

This is the thought we have here now in our Saviour's teaching. After having in the words, "*Abide in my love*," spoken of a life in His love as a necessity, because it is at once a possibility and an obligation, He states what its one condition is: "*If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love*."

This is surely not meant to close the door to the abode of His love which he had just opened up. Not in the most distant way does it suggest the thought which some are too ready to entertain, that as we cannot keep His commandments, we cannot abide in His love. No. The precept is a promise: "*Abide in my love*," could not be a precept if it were not a promise. And so the instruction as to the way through this open door points to no unattainable ideal—the love that invites to her blessed abode reaches out the hand, and enables us to keep the commandments. Let us not fear, in the strength of our ascended Lord, to take the vow of obedience, and give ourselves to the keeping of His commandments. Through His will, loved and done, lies the path to His love.

Only let us understand well what it means. It refers to our performance of all that we know to be God's will. There may be things doubtful, of which we are not sure. A sin of ignorance has still the nature of sin in it. There may be involuntary sins, which rise up in the flesh, which we cannot control or overcome. With regard to these God will deal in due time in the way of searching and humbling—and if we be simple and faithful, give us larger deliverance than we dare expect. But all this may be found in a truly obedient soul.

Obedience has reference to the positive keeping of the commandments of our Lord, and the performance of His will in everything in which we know it. This is a possible degree of grace, and it is the acceptance in Christ's strength of such obedience as the purpose of our heart, of which our Saviour speaks here. Faith in Christ as our Vine, in His enabling and sanctifying power, fits us for this obedience of faith, and secures a life of abiding in His love.

*If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love.* It is the heavenly Vine unfolding the mystery of the life He gives. It is to those abiding in Him to whom He opens up the secret of the full abiding in His love. It is the whole-hearted surrender in everything to do His will, that gives access to a life in the abiding enjoyment of His love.

*Obey and abide. Gracious Lord, teach me this lesson, that it is only through know-ing Thy will one can know Thy heart, and only through doing that will one can abide in Thy love. Lord, teach me that as worthless as is the doing in my own strength, so essential and absolutely indispensable is the doing of faith in Thy strength, if I would abide in Thy love.*

