

What Does the Lord Require?

One of the most important questions a person can ask is not, “What do I want from God?” but rather, **“What does God require of me?”** Moses raised that very question before Israel entered the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 10:12–13 says, ***“Now, Israel, what does The Lord your God require of you, but to fear The Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, and to serve The Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, to keep God’s commandments and statutes, which I command you today for your good?”***

God was not asking Israel for empty religious ceremony. He wanted their hearts, their loyalty, their obedience, and their lives. Those same principles continue throughout the New Testament.

Fear the Lord — To “fear” God means more than being frightened of Him. It means recognizing His holiness, His authority, and His right to rule our lives. Jesus taught, **“You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve him only”** (Matthew 4:10). Our culture often encourages people to live as though they answer only to themselves. Human opinion changes, moral standards shift, and behaviors once condemned may quickly become accepted. But the Christian begins with a different question: **What does God say?** Respect for God means His Word has the final authority.

Walk in His Ways — Moses told Israel to “walk in all his ways.” Christianity is likewise described as a walk— a daily manner of living. Paul wrote, **“Therefore watch carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise”** (Ephesians 5:15). Following Christ is not merely attending worship on Sunday. It influences how we conduct business, how we treat our families, how we speak to others, how we use our time, how we handle temptation, and how we respond when no one else is watching. In a world increasingly influenced by anger, dishonesty, sexual immorality, materialism, and self-interest, Christians are called to walk differently.

Love and Serve Him — God told Israel to love and serve Him “with all your heart and with all your soul.” Jesus repeated this principle: **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”** (Matthew 22:37) Love for God cannot be separated from obedience. Jesus said, **“If you love me, keep my commandments”** (John 14:15). Christian service is therefore not something added to life when convenient. Our faith should shape our priorities, our homes, our relationships, and our decisions.

Keep His Commandments — God told Israel that His commandments were “**for your good.**” God’s commands are not intended to rob mankind of happiness. They guide us toward lives of righteousness, faithfulness, peace, and spiritual security. The New Testament says, “**For this is loving God, that we keep his commandments. His commandments are not grievous**” (1 John 5:3). God still expects obedience—not obedience designed to earn salvation, but obedience that grows out of genuine faith and love.

Cling to Him — Moses continued: **Deuteronomy 10:20–21** — “***You shall fear The Lord your God. You shall serve him. You shall cling to him... He is your praise, and he is your God.***” That word “**cling**” is especially meaningful today. To cling to God means to hold firmly to Him—to remain faithful when other influences are pulling us in different directions. The Apostle James gives a similar New Testament instruction: “***Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.***” (James 4:8)

We live in an environment filled with competing voices demanding our attention and loyalty—culture, entertainment, social media, personal ambition, and popular opinion. Yet the Christian is called to draw nearer to God rather than drift farther away from Him. When everything around us seems uncertain and constantly changing, **God remains unchanged.**

So what does the Lord require? Fear Him. Walk in His ways. Love Him. Serve Him. Obey Him. Cling to Him. These were not merely instructions for ancient Israel. They describe the kind of heart God has always desired from His people. And perhaps the question each of us should ask today is not simply, “**What does the Lord require?**”

It is this: “**Am I giving Him what He requires?**”