

What Does It Mean to Remain?

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Remain in My love.

JOHN 15:9

Written by Bill Perkins

Remain.

The same word Jesus used for the Vine.

The same command.

The same relationship.

To remain means to stay,

to dwell,

to continue,

to make your home in the love that already holds you.

Jesus does not say, "Earn My love."

He says, Stay where I have placed you.

Sometimes His commands are specific-

"Sell all you have" (Luke 18:22).

"Baptizing them." (Matt. 28:19).

"Teaching them to obey." (Matt. 28:20).

Other times His commands have no steps attached-

"Deny yourself" (Mark 8:34).

"Take up your cross" (Mark 8:34).

"Do not fear" (Luke 12:32).

"Love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44).

"Remain in My love" (John 15:9).

But here is the deeper truth

you may not know about Jesus-

He never gives a command without giving Himself

as the power to obey it.

"I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Gal. 2:20

"Apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

"His power works within us." Eph. 3:20

"It is God who works in you." Phil. 2:13

"The Spirit gives life." John 6:63

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col. 1:27

He gives His words so we can hear Him.

He gives His love so we can trust Him.

He gives His Spirit so we can follow Him.

He gives His life so His strength is ours.

The command is ours.

The power is His.

He gives the Vine before He gives the fruit.

He gives His love before He commands ours.

He gives His life before He asks for obedience.

Remaining is the bridge between receiving His love
and expressing His love.

Scripture has always called us
to live in God's love, not visit it:

"The eternal God is your dwelling place." Deut. 33:27

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High." Psalm 91:1

Jesus gathers all of this into one invitation:

Remain in My love.

Remaining means staying in the love He gives,
trusting the love He offers,
obeying from the love He provides,
loving others with the love He pours in.

You may not know this about Jesus:

remaining is not effort— it's staying where the love is.

Remaining is how the impossible command
becomes possible.

Because the love He commands
is the love He gives.