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## His Promise of Freedom

March 25, 2022 (my untouched photograph from Old Mission Peninsula, Michigan)

He brought me forth into a spacious place; He rescued me because He delighted in me. (Psalm 18:19)

## Loving Him First

This morning, the Lord reminded me of a revelation He gave to me 20 years ago. I was single. My pastor encouraged me to attend *The Great Commandment Principle Seminar* given by David Ferguson. In a moment during the seminar, I sat stunned, awed from head to toe. Mr. Ferguson read the words of Yeshua from John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will keep my commandments.” Then, he asked us – “What if this statement is not a warning, but a promise?”

Before he could expound, I understood the point – Yeshua said, “If you love Me – if you make loving Me your priority, I promise that you will supernaturally, naturally end up doing my will.” Yeshua’s words were not a finger-wagging threat but a loving promise that His desire would be fulfilled in us.

**Loving Him first results in a life lived in His ways.**

The Apostle John wrote, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3; also see Romans 8:3-4)

**When we find our delight in God, His commandments are not difficult, because they flow from the Holy Spirit He has given to us at our new birth.**

## To please or receive?

The songwriter of Psalm 119 uses words such as commandments, instructions, ordinances, precepts, law, statutes, His ways, testimonies, and judgments. The keeper of these receives delight, revival, and joy!

**God is Complete Unselfishness.**

**He does not ask us to keep His commandments because it pleases Him.**

**He asks us to keep His commandments because He wants us to be free.**

**He is pleased when we are free.** His commandments bring freedom, result in loving relationships, and allow us to discover the unique person He called us to be.

Scripture is full of pictures of this freedom – Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Romans 12; and Isaiah 58:6-14 are just a few. We are free to love. We are free to be vulnerable with those we trust. We are free to listen and receive the perspective of others, while discerning His perspective.

We are also free to allow God to search our hearts because of 1 John 1:9. Yes, we are free to be wrong because He forgave us with His blood! Do you know someone who cannot be wrong? This is a sad bondage; perhaps they cannot face their sin because they haven’t believed in God’s forgiveness through Messiah. We are free to ask for forgiveness about specific sin, and we are free to forgive; keeping a record of wrongs reveals slavery to unforgiveness. (For more on this subject, see *Living in God’s Undeserved Love*, a really good writing at ShaleFragments.com)

**O Holy Spirit, reign over us, so that we can live with light hearts in the freedom you designed for us. We submit to You! Renew us in Your love today! Show us Your ways!**