



# IF YE LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

JOHN 14:15



Young Women General President Sister Bonnie H. Cordon (center), Sister Michelle D. Craig, First Counselor (left), and Sister Becky Craven, Second Counselor (right).



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## IF YE LOVE ME

By the Young Women General Presidency

**T**he 2019 annual youth theme is a call to action—a personal invitation from our Savior. Are you all in? Do you love Him? Are you willing to follow in His footsteps?

Our Savior Jesus Christ did something for us that we couldn't possibly do for ourselves. And what does He ask in return? He asks that we keep His commandments so we may be blessed to always have His Spirit to be with us (see Moroni 4:3).

The commandments are a gift of love. The Savior said simply, "If ye love me, keep my commandments," but *why*? Because He loves YOU! He wants *you* to be happy. He wants *your* life to be full of joy and endless possibilities. He wants *you* to be safe and protected from the evils of the world. He wants to pour blessings upon *you* that are so great "that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (3 Nephi 24:10).

He wants *you* to return and live with Him again and be a partaker of *all* of Heavenly Father's promised blessings.

Always remember how much Heavenly Father loves His children. He has perfect love for you. You can show your love for Him by keeping His commandments. Your righteous actions will bring tremendous blessings to you and to those around you.

As our prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, said: "We need you with us in the youth battalion of the Lord. It just won't be the same without you!" He invited you to "stand out [and] be different from the world" by living the standards in *For the Strength of Youth* and by keeping the commandments—to "look like, sound like, act like, and dress like a true disciple of Jesus Christ" ("Hope of Israel" [worldwide youth devotional, June 3, 2018], 8, HopeOfIsrael.Ids.org).

As you strive to obey the Lord and His



prophets, the power of the Holy Ghost will fill you with God's love and testify to you of your divine identity as a son or daughter of God. Those blessings grow as you strive to live righteously. The Lord and the prophet trust you. They love you. We promise that great confidence, self-assurance, and comfort come when you obey and keep the commandments.

## **KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS**

*By the Young Men General Presidency*

**H**ave you ever thought, "How can I show Heavenly Father that I really want Him to answer my prayers and bless me?" The Savior Jesus Christ gave us a key when He said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

In other words, we show our love to Heavenly Father by keeping His commandments.

Sometimes the answers to our prayers don't come when or how we expect, and we may be tempted to give up or stop being obedient. But if we are patient and listen, the Lord will answer in His own time and way. He always answers sincere prayers. He always blesses us for our obedience (see Mosiah 2:21–24).

The world teaches that love contains no responsibilities. But the opposite is actually true. Our love for God is demonstrated by our willingness and diligence in keeping His commandments.

The Savior taught, "The truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). The prophet Alma further declared, "wickedness never was happiness" (Alma 41:10). And through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord taught, "There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—and when we

obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated" (Doctrine and Covenants 130:20–21).

Happiness, blessings, and guidance come through obedience. Heavenly Father wants you to be happy and free because He loves you, and that is why He gives commandments. To find the peace not found in this world, we must learn that submitting to Heavenly Father's will is the only way to happiness.

Heavenly Father wants you to find eternal happiness. His prophets want you to find joy beyond measure. We want you to find the peace we have found in following the Savior. Walk the path that He has shown (see "Lord, I Would Follow Thee," *Hymns*, no. 220). Choose to be obedient. Your willing obedience will lead to true freedom and happiness. ■