

Deuteronomy 7:9

9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

This passage tells us that God is faithful and that he will do two things for his people: keep his covenant and keep mercy. At first glance, this appears to mean that God will keep his covenant or do what he said that he would do. It also seems to mean that he will keep or perform grace and this will be based on our actions of loving him and not breaking any commandments. However, this interpretation is inaccurate. If God's grace and covenant would be based on man's ability to love God and do right, all of us would be in trouble.

However, a closer look at the Scriptures and our English language reveals something different. Keep, in the Bible, many times means to hedge about or to guard. In medieval times, treasures were kept in a safe place within the castle walls. This place was known as "the keep". It is this meaning that is important to this Scripture passage.

God promises to guard his covenant and his mercy for those that love him (Col. 3:2) and guard his commandments. God does not expect me to have a perfect love and live sinless before he works for me. He instead wants me to turn my heart toward him and guard myself all throughout the day removing anything that may influence me or cause me to sin. This attitude is what the feast of unleavened bread was supposed to typify (Ex. 13:6-7).

I cannot live perfectly, but I can decide to turn my heart toward him and guard myself from sin. If I do this, he will guard his covenant—I will get all that I am intended to get—and his mercy. The mercy that is new everyday (Lam. 3:22-23) will be at my disposal.

The Christian life is not as difficult as some make it seem. It is as simple as turning my heart toward him and God will do the rest. The problem with many is that they are double minded (James 1:8) and therefore miss out on all of the blessings.