

GOD'S LOVE: CONDITIONAL OR UNCONDITIONAL

There is a question we must address with understanding of the Holy Scriptures since the answer to this question will give us valuable knowledge of the will of God. As a matter of fact, we are not qualified to even consider this topic because of our limited knowledge and understanding of the truth.

The question we must address is: Is God's love conditional or unconditional?

Consider this passage of Scripture very carefully and be very honest with yourself and then confirm if there are any conditions for salvation, not forgetting the fact that God's love and salvation are intrinsic.

John 3:14-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

There are many who have been led to believe that God's love is unconditional, regardless of what we do. What do you think? More to the point, is there anything we do here on earth which is unconditional? Unconditional means: there are no prerequisite for something to happen.

The question we really should ask is are there any prerequisite conditions for us to qualify for God's love? Seriously consider this if you may; if God's love is unconditional, why has He given us His laws and commandments? We are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts. Is that not a condition? There should be no prophecy about the Great White Throne Judgement at the end of the next age, if God's love is unconditional. We should not confuse

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God's mercy, compassion, and longsuffering to be unconditional love. By the end of this study, you will become aware that God's love has two levels and to qualify for the higher level of God's love, which is eternal life, there are many prerequisite requirements. However, man's religion and tradition, church participation and belonging to a particular denomination has nothing to do with it.

The unique gift of life is one of the most misunderstood concepts that has been taken for granted in many quarters here on earth, with some attaching no little value to it. The presence of life in a body makes things possible but without life, all our plans perish instantly. Life is a distinguished gift that comes with instructions but most of us are ignorant of the instructions that shadows our lives. Like the concept of day and night, seasonal changes, the direction of the wind, we have no control over when we enter the world and most importantly, when we leave this world, which is just as we came in, empty handed. We have no choice over our families, neither do we choose our race or nationality. We enter this world naked. The most we can do at that stage is cry, eat, produce waste and sleep. We must learn how to do everything. If we are fortunate, we are provided with good care and attention from birth by our parents.

When we diligently consider some of the aspects of this life, it leaves us with many questions that are too profound for us to fathom. Where do we come from and where do we go after this life, are some of the questions many have toiled with, but cannot conclude with a definite answer. Today, we know the composition of man is body, soul and spirit. It is the spirit that gives life to the soul which is housed in our bodies. The engineering involved in the creation of the body and how it functions is just too complex for us to understand. We know nothing extensive about the soul and spirit although some will claim otherwise. We have been created perfectly to exist here on earth. The earth itself was created perfectly to sustain and provides for our every need.

We do not have to source any of our needs from another planet. Everything we need has been provided directly or indirectly for us. Moreover, we have been given the intelligence to be able to create, by sourcing different materials, combining them together in different proportions to produce something new. There is absolutely nothing that has not been diligently, skilfully and strategically put in place so we can use our intelligence to master and

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be productive in our lifetime. This life was not given to us to sit around slothfully, neither will anyone be going to heaven to sit idly, contrary to popular belief.

There are some today who believe they are a product of their patents. That is true to some extent without considering who puts the spirit that gives life to the baby. The concept of reproduction itself is another phenomenon that has been greatly misconceived. It should not be tampered with, but it has become a fashion statement to those who are of a reprobate mind. There is too much order in the world for anyone to even consider it has not been put in place by a Being who is by far too superior for our little minds to fully comprehend.

Psalm 139:13-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvellous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

The above passage of Scripture opens our understanding to the complexity of the process of reproduction. Reproduction is far more intricate than two people from the opposite sex coming together to grow a family. Someone had to put the spirit in the baby at some point during the process for it to be covered by the body since the spirit is not in the egg or sperm cell. Consider this passage of Scripture below to gain valuable understanding:

Genesis 18:10-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. ¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" ¹³ And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'"

As we now know, without the spirit there will be no baby. This is the Being those who have come to some understanding of truth call the Lord our God. If anyone of us should think

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there is no God, they are being deceived and their hearts are far from the truth because all of God's invisible attributes has been shown to all of us:

Romans 1:18-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

We were created by a God whose wisdom, understanding, knowledge and might are infinite, and His character surpasses all our understanding. There is nothing we cannot imagine that is not known to our God. Understanding is His and He is the one who gives us the knowledge of the inventions we have today and freely:

Proverbs 8:12 King James Version (KJV)

¹² I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

The almighty God has said He is not far from us although He inhabits eternity. Our Lord and God has chosen to be invisible to us during this age for good reasons. But He has said if we seek Him, we shall find Him:

Jeremiah 23:23-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ "Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off? ²⁴ Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.

And for emphasis the Lord reiterated the fact that He is a God close to us, but we must seek Him earnestly:

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Jeremiah 29:12-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

The above passages of Scripture depict our God is close to us, but to find Him we must seek Him with all our hearts. This is part of an awesome prophecy for the End of Age that has bearing on all true believer and those who profess to believe, but by their works they are far from the Lord. When we come to the revelation that:

Proverbs 16:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

This statement should put the whole concept on how we view life into perspective. How can we describe our God? What words can we use to describe our God? It will be a difficult task for anyone to give an accurate description of the God who created the heavens and the earth, who has also given us life. It is more fitting for us to understand what our God has said about Himself. God has said:

Exodus 34:5-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

This passage of Scripture is expounded further in the book of Psalms:

Psalms 103:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and

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tender mercies, ⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord our God is abounding in goodness and truth. He will forgive all our iniquities but will not by any means clear the guilty. This statement should set alarm bells ringing in our minds. What are some of the other character traits of our God?

Malachi 3:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

The apostle Paul was inspired to write:

Hebrews 13:8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

We are dealing with the same God who called for light in the book of Genesis chapter one. This is the same God who came into the world as a man and was crucified for our sins. Now, He is waiting for the appointed time to return and restore the earth. He has also made us aware of the fact that:

Isaiah 55:8-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

It should be crystal clear in our minds, never to be forgotten that, the Lord our God's ways and thoughts are as far as the heavens is from the earth from our ways and thoughts. Most importantly, we should understand without doubt that the Lord our God will accomplish what He has said. Only the Lord can tell the end from the beginning:

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Isaiah 46:8-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸*“Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors.*

⁹*Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’*

What God has proposed He will do with or without our participation. We live in a well-orchestrated plan that has an expected end. Now that we know the foundation of the nature of our God, can we ever be in doubt of His love for us?

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GOD'S LOVE

We should be under no illusion that life is a gift from God. If God did not love much, He would not have created us and we will certainly not be alive today to read about His love. In the beginning God created human beings on the sixth day at the time of the restoration of the earth:

Genesis 1:26-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

We have been created in the image of God. But there is more. In every generation since the beginning when God created man in His image, there has always been a people that God has created set apart for His purpose.

Isaiah 43:4-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honoured, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. ⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; ⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth— ⁷ Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

We must seriously consider why will God create a people set apart for His glory if there are no conditions attached to His love. This prophecy will be fulfilled in our lifetime. Everyone who is has been justified is called by the name of God. These are those God has created for Himself. Obedience and faith are the keys to justification. There are two profound yet simplistic reasons why we cannot doubt the love of God. One reason is the fact that

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although God knew that we will all at some stage disobey His commandments, He still went ahead to create us with the free will to make our own choices which is in His likeness:

Genesis 3:6-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Adam could have done two things, stopped Eve from eating the fruit since he was the one to whom God gave the commandments or refused to eat the fruit himself. Surely, he too had his eyes peeled on it. And when he saw Eve was still alive after eating the fruit, his desire grew, and he could no longer resist the temptation. The Lord our God was fully aware of what would happen, and He allowed it to happen.

Secondly, God had already provided atonement for our sins, that is the payment for our transgressions of His laws and commandments before He even created the heavens and the earth:

John 3:12-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

There is no greater love than this:

John 15:12-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

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If you were pondering on what constitutes becoming a friend of the God, it has been made crystal clear in the above passage of Scripture. We are to do as the Lord has commanded, which is not only to love one another. The command for the Lord to lay down His life for His friends was given to Him before the foundation of the world:

Revelation 13:8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

There is a book in heaven with the names of all those who will choose to be obedient to the Lord's call to repentance. Those names were written even before the Lord created the earth. But there is a stark warning to those whose names have been written in that book:

Revelation 3:5-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. ⁶“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Moreover, to express the love the Lord our God has for us, the Lord has said He will do nothing on earth except He first reveals His secret to His servants the prophets:

Amos 3:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying: ²“You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.” ³Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? ⁴Will a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Will a young lion cry out of his den, if he has caught nothing? ⁵Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it? Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all? ⁶If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it? ⁷Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. ⁸A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

We have been told everything in advance of it happening not just on earth but in the heavens also. But who has taken the time to diligently seek understanding of what the Lord our God has said? When the period of darkness will come and overtake the earth, many will

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regret not heeding the word of God. Because God is perfect and loves, He is not selective on who He gives rain and sunshine. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Matthew 5:43-48 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

These are many other passages of Scripture which portrays the fact that the Lord our God loves all but it does not mean that His love is unconditional. Moreover, because He loves us, He created us with a free will and has already provided atonement for our sins. This is the first facet of God's love to everyone that God has created on earth.

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GOD'S CONDITIONAL LOVE

Is there anything like unconditional love? God knew that giving us the free will to choose what we do with our lives will not be a free will if there was not an alternative to His way. For us to have a free will, the Lord our God had to also provide another option, an alternative to His ways and He gave us the best, what we see in the world today. To safeguard life on earth, God also established His laws and commandments. There are grave consequences for breaking God's laws and commandments and great rewards for keeping His laws and commandments. Some will ask what has the laws and commandments got to do with God's love for us. The profound but simple answer is everything. The laws and commandments of God are intrinsic to life.

There is a question we must ask at this stage. Is agape love unconditional? Word study is good but not appropriate for Bible study because it takes away the meaning out of the content on the topic in question. In the content of the Holy Scriptures, from Genesis chapter one to the last chapter of the book of Revelation, you will never come across a passage of Scripture that stipulates that agape love or rather God's love is unconditional. But one thing is abundantly clear in the Holy Scriptures, if you want to experience God's love, keep His laws and commandments. If you consider the fact that the reward of sin is death and sin is breaking the laws and commandments of God, how can anyone say that they love God if they do not keep His laws and commandments? Is not love a two-way concept? Consider this passage of Scripture that was mentioned earlier but this point was not highlighted:

Amos 3:3 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

These eight little words which have no great significance on their own but when put together declares one of the greatest principles that underpins love, relationships, and friendships. Two or more people cannot walk together if they do not agree on core values and principles. Look around and you will see it is so. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were in one place and in one accord. They were in agreement. God's love is conditional that we obey His laws and commandments. We must be fully aware that God is the Father and we are His creation and not the other way around, because He makes the rules. Now consider this passage of Scripture:

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Ezekiel 18:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, ²“What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

³“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. ⁴“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

Would you say there is no conditions attached to life and to God’s love after reading the above passage of Scripture? Moreover, the Lord made it clear that He has no pleasure in the death of anyone, pleading with us to turn from transgressing His laws and commandments which leads to death:

Ezekiel 18:30-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”

Notice the fact that judgement is on an individual basis. The Lord our God is the God of the living. The conditions for life are obedience to the laws and commandments of God and the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are still of the opinion that these passages of Scripture mentioned above are not related to love, then consider what the Lord said through King Solomon in the book of Proverbs:

Proverbs 8:17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

These are the words of the God of the Old Testament. This is the Lord Jesus Christ speaking to us directly, not King Solomon because in the first chapter of the book of Proverbs the Lord said He will pour out His Spirit on those who turn at His rebuke something King Solomon who is dead cannot do. From the above passage of Scripture, you can clearly see

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that the Lord loves those who love Him. The foundation of loving the Lord is to keep His laws and commandments:

Proverbs 8:32-36 New King James Version (NKJV)

³² "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. ³³ Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. ³⁴ Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. ³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favour from the LORD; ³⁶ But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

When we sin, we do it against ourselves. Moreover, if we take a dislike to the laws and commandments of God, we are effectively taking a dislike to the Lord who issued these commandments. The reward for that is death. The Lord Jesus Christ said if we loved Him, we should keep His commandments:

John 14:15-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

The Spirit of truth is only given to those who have repented and have set their hearts to keep the commandments of the Lord and not to the world. Would you still be led to believe that the love of God is unconditional? The Lord prayed for His disciples and those who will be converted through their words but not for the world. Is there not a condition attached to His love?

John 17:8-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹ "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them, ¹¹ now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You

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gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Disobedience to the laws and commandments of God will keep us from the love of God. Consider these very sobering words:

Romans 9:9-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁰ And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." ¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

Why would the Lord love Jacob and hate Esau? But the Lord blessed Esau and his descendants with prosperity. The Lord has said we should not hate. But here we read about hatred. It comes down to the simple fact that Esau was disobedient to the laws and commandments of the Lord and his father. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Hebrews 10:36-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

³⁷ "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. ³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

We must be obedient until the end. If we become disobedient to the laws and commandments of God at any stage during our lives and do not repent of our sins, the Lord will have no pleasure in us. Would you not be led to believe that God's love is conditional? What is the condition? The condition could be considered simplistic but is yet profound

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because it is subtle, the difference between life and death; obedience to the laws and commandments of God.

2 Peter 3:8-10 New King James Version

⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

God is not willing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance. Is it going to be the case? Will there be a second chance? Some have been led to believe this passage of Scripture means unconditional love, leading others to believe that, regardless of what we do, God will still love us, and He will save us, forgetting the second part of the sentence.

The call to repentance has already gone out from the Lord and His servants, the apostles, and the prophets. We must freely choose to repent. If we do not repent, we will certainly not see the salvation of God and certainly the love of God. God will bring to judgement all our works, including every secret work, whether it is good or whether it is evil.

Sin will keep us from the love of God. Take heed that no one deceives you.