

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.

Gratitude and God's Law

God's law is "the will of God expressed in commandments of a positive and negative kind. **The people of God obey Him (and thus the Law), not to earn salvation, but out of gratitude and love for Him.**"

(from The Dictionary of Christian Tradition)

This idea of obeying the will of God by our obedience to the principles already laid down in the Law is evidenced in Paul's teaching to the Romans in chapter 12. **The Hebrew word *halakhah* comes from the root word for *walk* and stresses the idea of teaching believers how to walk with and before the Lord.** With Paul's frequent use of the concept of the believer's walk with God, it is sad that Christians have been taught that the only manual Paul had for describing this walk has been abolished.

Dr. Blizzard further states, "The idea of law in Hebrew is not something that, if transgressed, is going to get you *zapped*. **Torah is instruction that, if followed, will enrich one's life; if ignored, will diminish it.** In the biblical text, Law is frequently viewed as that which God has commanded.

The Hebrew word translated commandment is *mitzvah*, which comes from the root *tzava*, and actually means *to lay charge upon*, or *to give charge to*. A *mitzvah* is a *charge* or a *commandment*. According to Blizzard, commandments, when performed, designate the individual as moral and ethical, benefiting all involved and pleasing God.

