

# Drawn, Not Driven

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*When Love Fuels Obedience*

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John 14:15–21 (ESV)

**BIG IDEA** *Love is the engine. Obedience is what the engine produces. The Spirit is the fuel.*

## I. TO LOVE IS TO OBEY

*John 14:15 — “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”*

Love comes first. Obedience flows from it — not the other way around.

—Order matters: love → obedience, never obedience → love.

—“My commandments” in John = love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34–35).

—Love is a chosen commitment, not a warm feeling (N.T. Wright).

*“We are not driven to God by duty. We are drawn to God by love.” — Gardner C. Taylor*

—Diagnosis for the weary: not low willpower — drift from the love. Return to the cross.

## II. YOU ARE NOT ALONE

*John 14:16–20 — “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper...”*

Jesus never hands you a standard and walks away. He sends help.

—Paraclete (parakletos) — “one called alongside to help.”

—Same presence, truth, and love of Jesus — now internalized (Gail O'Day).

—Electrical-grid image: don't generate the power; stay connected — Word, prayer, community.

—“I will not leave you as orphans” (v. 18) — no protection, provision, or name? Not you.

*You are not abandoned. You are adopted.*

## III. YOUR LIFE REFLECTS YOUR HEART

*John 14:21 — “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me...”*

The sermon of your life will always be louder than the sermon of your lips.

—Not perfection — direction. A river bends, but still moves toward the sea.

—Ask: more love than last year? More forgiveness? More fruit, less flesh?

—“Manifest myself” = make visible what was hidden. Not pop-spirituality “manifesting.”

—Eugene Peterson: “A long obedience in the same direction.”

*“The longer I walk with Jesus, the better I know Him... the more I trust Him, the freer I am.”*

— *E.V. Hill*

**THE CALL** Don't try harder — love deeper. Go back to the cross. Stay connected to the Spirit. Walk — imperfectly but steadily — in His direction. And watch what He does.