

## Bible Study

I Will – Lesson 15

By – Thom Rainer

### I WILL RESPOND GRACIOUSLY TO A LOVING GOD

John 14: 14-18

I am convinced that many of our churches today are filled with reactionary Christians. They follow a magnetic pastor, a super choir or the length of the service. It is about feelings, recognitions and status. They operate on responding to emotional conditions and experiences that happens to them. There are three ways these Christians may respond to God: **GRUDGINGLY** – Like Moses in Exodus 3: 11-12 ( he questioned his status to be a leader) and again in Exodus 4: 10-14 (he lacked belief in his ability to speak eloquently); **GUARDEDLY** – Like the servant that was given one talent in Matthews 25: 18, 24-26 ( he was afraid to utilize or invest what he received to improve on what the master gave him, he hid it); **GRACIOUSLY** – like Saul responding to God’s call in Acts 9: 4-6 & 17-20 ( his convergent that led to preaching in the synagogue after spending a few days with some disciples at Damascus.

It is very important for to understand that God loves us unconditionally. He does not love us because of our goodness, righteousness nor purity but He loves us when we are dirty, messy, rebellious and/or downright disobedient. In other words, God does not love us according to our perfections, but He loves us in the midst of our imperfections. Parents love their children (big and small; young and old) regardless of what they do or how they act. Well, so do our loving Savior. Our parents may not always approve, support or agree with their children but nothing replaces a good parent’s their love. The same is with God, He does not always agree or support our action that are sinful but He loves us all the more.

Our text tonight begins with the words, “If you love me...” There is nothing I’ve heard or know of on biblical record that says “If God does love me, then we will have...” ‘IF’ fulfills our conditional promise as humans, so that God can bless us. Promises and rewards are ours when we meet the conditions of the ‘IF’ given by God. The problem we have in responding to a loving God, is our perception to Him. When we change our perception of God, then we can graciously serve Him.

I like to share with you three contrasts of how we can perceive Jesus, as we Respond Graciously to a Loving God.

- I. Do we view Christ as an Inspecting or Inspiring God? (vs. 14-15)
  - A. An Inspecting God can be vengeful, finger pointing, negative
  - B. An Inspiring God can be instructional, informative, interesting
- II. Do we view Christ as a Disappointment or a Delightful God? (vs. 16-17)
  - A. A Disappointing God is viewed as rejecting, revolting, rebuffing
  - B. A Delightful God is viewed as responsive, receptive, refreshing
- III. Do we view Christ as an Unavailable or an Understanding God? (vs. 18)
  - A. An Unavailable God seems to be distant, unapproachable, unfriendly
  - B. An Understanding God seems to be friendly, approachable, agreeable