



**Mold Me
and
Make Me**

Judy Root

Mold Me and Make Me

A Bible Study Workbook

by Judy Root

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Introduction

The title for this book came from the hymn entitled, “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” by Adelaide Pollard. Pollard penned the words in 1902 after she returned home from a prayer meeting. She attended that meeting with a heavy heart because her plans for her life were not being fulfilled. While at the prayer meeting, she heard an elderly woman pray, “It really doesn’t matter what you do with us, Lord—just have your own way with our lives.” Pollard went home that night and wrote the words to all four verses of the song. The first verse of this hymn says:

Have Thine own way Lord
Have Thine own way
Thou art the potter I am the clay
Mold me and make me after Thy will
While I am waiting yielded and still

As I wrote this book, I visualized a scene where a person was sitting at a potter’s wheel molding a lump clay. When the potter began, the clay had no purpose or value. It was simply a piece of shapeless clay. But as the potter turned the wheel, he used his hands to change the clay into whatever object that pleases him. When he finished each item, he placed it on a shelf. The shelf contained many pots of every shape and size, and they were all beautiful.

God is our potter, and we are the clay in His hands. We want God to mold us with His word and make us into a people who bring glory to His name. In this book, I have chosen topics that require us to yield our will to God. As we learn together from God’s word, we will emerge as vessels of beauty that honor God in all we do. **Isaiah 64:8** tells us, “Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

Lesson 1

What Does It Mean to Love God?

To many people, the answer to the question, “What does it mean to love God?” relates to how they feel about God. It is an emotional response to their love for God. Jesus teaches us that loving God is much more than how we feel as we read His words in **Mark 12:30**. On that occasion, the Jewish leaders were trying to trap Jesus into saying something they could use against Him. One by one, the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes presented cases for Jesus to explain. Finally, a Scribe asked Jesus, “What is the greatest commandment?” Jesus replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. Jesus was quoting **Deuteronomy 6:4**, which these leaders should have known well. Jesus was teaching them and is now teaching us that loving God is the foundation of our relationship with God. To love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is all-encompassing. Everything in our lives must grow out of our love for God. In this lesson, I would like for us to learn from scripture how this love develops and how it is reflected in our lives.

Love for God begins with knowledge. We cannot love someone we do not know. Suppose I discovered from DNA testing that I had a relative I had never met. I only knew her name, but there was no more information provided. Would I say, “I love my new relative, Debra, with all my heart?” Of course not. I cannot love a person’s name and not know the person. It is the same with God. We must know about God to love Him, and this knowledge is only found in scripture.

Consider the words of God in **Jeremiah 9:23–24**, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,’ declares the Lord.” Nothing matters in life but to love God and

understand what scripture teaches us about Him, because as our knowledge of God grows, our love for God grows. This love increases throughout life and becomes “sweeter as the years go by.”

Our knowledge of God leads us to the desire to obey Him. Obedience is an outgrowth of loving God, and it puts our love into action. **I John 5:2–3** defines the love of God as obedience to His commands. John writes, “By this, we know that we love the children of God when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” God has given us Jesus as our example of how an obedient life looks. John says in **I John 2:5–6**, “But if anyone obeys His word, the love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.”

We can be in unity with God, just as Jesus was if we are obedient to our Father’s will. Jesus did not love in word only but in action. Jesus taught God’s word to everyone, from the shores of the Sea of Galilee to the synagogues of the Jews. He touched the lives of the people around Him by healing the sick, casting out demons and raising the dead. Jesus lived a sacrificial life by denying His desires and submitting Himself to God. Jesus loved God in word and deed as we read in **I John 3:18**, “Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.” True love of God is not passive. It is something we joyfully proclaim, and then it is proven by the life we live.

Service to God has no value unless it is an expression of our love for God. There are men and women in the world today who do extraordinary things to benefit others, yet they are not motivated by their love for God. They may care deeply for those who are sick, in poverty, or homeless, but if they are not glorifying God in their good works, it is meaningless. God makes this point so clear in **I Corinthians 13:1–3** when He says, “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have

love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.” Our ability to love one another comes from God, the source of love. Our service to our fellow man shows proof of that love.

One thing we cannot do is allow our feelings to determine our obedience. How we feel about something can change from day to day. I remember when I was in college (a long time ago), how much I loved my first electric typewriter. I was amazed at how efficiently I could complete my work. Now, it has been discarded, and I rely on my laptop for typing. I fell out of love with one thing and into love for another. Feelings are unreliable as a guide, especially to obeying God. Think about our physical jobs both inside and outside of our homes. We get up at the proper time, get dressed, and proceed to complete the work we must do. We do not contemplate each day if we feel like getting out of bed, dressing, and completing our work. This is where Satan places stumbling blocks in our way regarding submitting to God. We tell ourselves we are too tired, too busy, too stressed to obey God. These types of feelings are exactly how Satan wants us to feel.

Faithful obedience calls us to live a sacrificial life, so we will push those obstacles to the side and move forward as obedient children of God. Think about Jesus in the garden prior to His crucifixion when He was suffering and grieving about the death that faced Him. Jesus prayed to God in **Matthew 26:39**, And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” Jesus was willing to set aside His desire to avoid crucifixion and focused on obeying God’s desire for Him to fulfill the task of redemption for all mankind. In the face of this ultimate sacrifice, Jesus submitted Himself to death on the cross. What would motivate such a decision? Only His great love for His Father. This love is the ultimate example for us. No matter what is at stake, we must be humble, obedient servants of God. We can submit to God confidently because we trust Him and know His love for us will lead us to our heavenly home. **Proverbs 3:5–6** tells us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own

understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.”

Our expressions of love for God comes in different ways. Think about the woman in **Luke 7:36–50**. Jesus was invited to the home of a Pharisee, and He entered the house and reclined at the table. A woman of the town who was known to be a sinner learned where Jesus was, then with courage, she entered the house and stood behind Jesus at His feet and began to weep. Her tears landed on Jesus’ feet, and she wiped off the tears with her hair, then kissed His feet and anointed them with perfume. This unnamed woman showed she was heartbroken because of the sins in her life. She demonstrated her great love for Jesus, the one who could save her, by her wordless act of worship. We can rejoice with her when Jesus said, “Your faith has saved you, go in peace.” When we have studied God’s word with the desire to know Him, our prayers of love to God will also overflow with praise and thanksgiving. Our desire is to glorify our Creator for His redeeming love, which knows no bounds. The words we express are not random feelings that happen when our emotions are stirred up by something we hear or see. Our emotions are intentional, and they come from our intellect. We are so humbled that God would redeem us with the blood of His Son, that we feel compelled to give Him all glory and honor.

Singing beautiful hymns of praise to our Father is another way we express our love to God. As we sing our emotions to soar as they did with David when he penned these words in **Psalms 95:1–6**. “O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods, in whose hand are the depths of the earth, the peaks of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for it was He who made it, and His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!” Let us give praise and glory to God in everything we do.

In answering the question, “What does it mean to love God?” we have learned that our love for God comes from our knowledge of God, and this

knowledge leads us to obedience. Our hearts will overflow with thanksgiving as we treasure this great gift of salvation. Jesus tells us in **Matthew 6:21**, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.” Our treasure is the promise of a heavenly home with Christ and our Holy Father. The words of a hymn we frequently sing say, “This world is not my home, I’m just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.” We have no way to repay God for His great love, but each of us can use our lives to glorify His name and bring honor to our Savior and God.

Searching the Scriptures

1. Mark gives us an all-inclusive description of how we should love God. After studying these verses, we can understand that loving God is our motivation for everything we think or do as Christians.

Mark 12:29–30 Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘hear, O Israel! the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

List the four ways Jesus says we should love God.

2. What do each of these four ways of loving God mean to you?

Jeremiah 9:23–24 Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

3. Jeremiah says we should not boast of _____
 _____, _____ or
 _____.

Of what can we boast?

4. How important is it for us to know God and Christ? See **John 17:1-3**.

5. As we study God's word, our love for God grows. Write the qualities of God that we learn from each of the scriptures below.

Deuteronomy 32:4 _____

Colossians 1:16 _____

Romans 11:33-36 _____

Isaiah 40:28 _____

Isaiah 46:9-10 _____

Psalms 138:7-10 _____

Deuteronomy 7:9 _____

Romans 9:15-16 _____

6. John spoke these words so we can understand that when we obey the teachings of Jesus, the love of God is made complete in us.

I John 2:5-6 But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Fill in the missing words of **I John 2:5-6**:

“But whoever _____, in
 him the _____ has truly
 been _____. By this we know that

_____ : the one who says he
abides in Him ought himself to
_____ as
He walked.”

How do we know we are one with Christ?

7. Jesus came to earth as a man to be an example to us of one who was perfect in His obedience to God.

John 6:38–39 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.”

To what extent did Jesus obey God? What motivated His obedience?

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.

8. Make a list of problems that you have observed when we lean on our own understanding rather than God’s.

9. Proverbs 3:5–6 tells us to “trust in the Lord,” “submit to Him,” and He will “make our pathways straight.” What does a straight pathway look like in our lives? What does a crooked pathway look like in our lives?
10. As we grow in our love for God, our hearts will overflow with gratitude and thanksgiving for the blessings God has poured out on us. How do we express our gratitude and thankfulness?
11. Underline the words in these verses that tell us how we can glorify God.

Psalm 9:1–2

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonders.
I will be glad and exult in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Isaiah 12:4

And in that day, you will say,
“Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name.
Make known His deeds among the peoples;
Make them remember that His name is exalted.”

Psalms 119:11–12

Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.
Blessed are You, O LORD;
Teach me Your statutes.