

וְהָיָה עִקְבֵי תִשְׁמְעוּן, אֵת הַמְשָׁפְטִים הָאֵלֶּה, וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם וַעֲשִׂיתֶם,  
אֲתֶם--וְשָׁמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ לָךְ, אֶת-הַבְּרִית וְאֶת-הַחֶסֶד, אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע,  
לְאַבְתָּיִךְ.

Moshe tells the Jewish People that if they observe God's commandments, He in return will take care of them in the Land and will make the Land prosper. Moshe in the plain sense of his words is speaking only of complying with God's commandments (a pact between servant and ruler) and not of obedience ensuing from accepting God.

This relationship seems to be sufficient at least for God to show good will towards His people. However, is a relationship predicated upon mere compliance one that God ultimately desires and expects?

What relationship does God expect and desire to have with His people?

The Amora Rabbi Hiyya Bar Ba in the Talmud Yerushalmi deals with this very question God is content even if the Jews have abandoned Him as long as they have not abandoned the Torah (=commandments) because the Torah will bring them back to Him.

<http://www.talmudyerushalmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Accepting-God-vs.-His-Commandments.pdf>

In God's eyes a relationship based on observing the commandments alone is tolerable, but the relationship God desires with His people is predicated upon accepting Him and not His commandments alone.

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