A. Allow God to be Your Best Friend (vv. 12-13):

1. Always respect who He is:
   a) Approach Him and live with a constant respect for Him.
   b) He is responsible for all divine activity revealed to man and is the object of all true reverence, is the creator of all and is sovereign over all the earth.

2. In everything seek His counsel and accept His guidance. The Lord God demands to the point of begging, that we seek His counsel, direction or guidance.

3. Focus on having or developing a sincere relationship with Him:
   a) Reverence God by being a consistent worshipper. He loves to be adored. To have an awe or reverence for the Lord God so that it motivates righteous living or piety.
   b) Practice His Word so that it becomes a lifestyle pattern. He instructs them to always be in a state of movement that suggest a lifestyle change so that we live responsible before God.
   c) Make decisions that cause us to walk righteously. Our lifestyle decisions must be influenced by the divine will of God so that he leads us in straight paths.
   d) No matter what we face and the stress it may create preserve in His Word (John 14:15). Be very determined to obey Him and to have a tender affection to love Him.
   e) Be committed to please Him no matter what we do or are responsible for. To labor like a slave being responsible to our families, using our spiritual gifts at church, our abilities on the job, as an exhilarating experience of obeying God wholeheartedly. This is vivid to a people whose worship involves a lot of sacrifice.
   f) Don’t allow our emotions to cause us to forsake God’s Word. Serving the Lord with our deeper, innermost feelings in the whole spectrum of human emotions. This can lead to wisdom and understanding controlling the will of the person. Bringing our emotions under the will of God so that fear, anxiety, stress don’t cause us to forsake God or not think of Him at all when making decisions.
   g) Let every breath we take be for Him since it is because of Him. With every breath since we reverence Him, walk in all His ways and love Him; we daily live for Him.

4. Study God’s Word and find ways to remember it. We must pay careful attention and put a hedge around God’s word (David – Psalm 119:9-11) and guard it.

5. Remember whatever God teaches us from His Word is not a suggestion. We must put a hedge around God’s clear cut directives of His moral law.

6. Engrave God’s Word in our hearts. It is a specific reference to God’s law being engraved in stone.

7. Always remember God is the boss. God constituted to make firm as the superior being a verbal communication to a subordinate requiring an inner commitment.

8. God like a good parent is doing everything for our eternal benefit. We must trust Him.
   a) Always keep in mind that no matter what we face God rewards faith (Hebrews 11:6) and blesses those who commit to take refuge in His Word (Psalm 112:1-4). Surrendering to God and preserving in His Word leads to more pleasant and excellent life experiences, and economic benefit that is excellent. It can refer to doing practical good to someone else. God does not need anything so there is no point for Him to command all of this for His good.
B. Trust in His Greatness and Love (vv. 14-15):

1. Remember and give attention to the fact that God is in control of everything. Because we are committed to do what verse 12 and 13 states we must also give special attention to this.
2. Despite Israel not loving God, God still loved them from the inside out (John 1:9-13).
3. God from the inner most parts of His heart and soul desired His chosen people (John 1:9-13).
4. God vehemently determined to provide unspeakable love and tender mercies for His people. God is love. He is always to first to love us (1 John 4:7-8).
5. God made a careful, well thought-out acceptable, excellent choice with no turning back to love His chosen people (1 Peter 2:9-10). We did not choose God (Romans 3:11). God chose us.
6. People who came from Abraham who is chief and rules over how everyone functions or is blessed by God.

C. Be Flexible (v. 16):

1. Because of what God requires and who God is, His chosen people must do the following.
2. The command here is to remove the things that block the heart making it accessible to God’s teaching. It also means to no longer be stubborn. An uncircumcised heart means a will that is hardened against God’s commands. (Notice how the appeal to history in 10:1–11 leads to practical application in 10:12, just as chapters 1–3 preface the application in chapter 4. In both cases the transition is marked by the key phrase ‘And now’ (4:1; 10:12, for other examples see 26:10; 31:19).]
3. Serving the Lord with our deeper, innermost feelings in the whole spectrum of human emotions. This can lead to wisdom and understanding controlling the will of the person. Bringing our emotions under the will of God so that fear, anxiety, stress don’t cause us to forsake God or not think of Him at all when making decisions.
4. To be stiff-necked is to be un-submissive, like an ox that refuses to bow its head to the yoke and to turn at the command of its owner. Throughout the Old Testament “stiffnecked” is a metaphor for stubbornness and recalcitrance (cf. Job 9:4; 2 Chr 30:8; 36:13; Neh 9:16–17, 29; Jer 7:26; 17:23; 19:15). In the present context it denotes a lack of compliance to the covenant requirements.]

D. God Fights for us and is Always in Control; Trust Him Always (v. 17):

1. As a result.
2. The Lord who has all authority and who as master rewards people or punishes people therefore demonstrating His chosen relationship people.
3. He is responsible for all divine activity revealed to man and is the object of all true reverence, is the creator of all and is sovereign over all the earth.
4. It is the Lord who has all authority and is a majestic, powerful, mighty ruler who rules with all His strength.
5. This is used to make a distinctive statement for describing someone who has become great. Remember this is after 40 years of journeying with God powerfully functioning before them every day. There is no one with a more distinctive ability than God.
6. He is a successful proven warrior who is strong and always prevails.
7. A very positive feeling of awe or reverence for God - it became a technical term, a "God fearer" - This is not simple fear, but reverence, whereby an individual recognizes the power and position of the individual revered and renders him proper respect - In this sense, the word may imply submission to a proper ethical relationship to God.
8. Was the primary Hebrew term for factual negation in contrast to which typically described potential negation.
9. God is just with every decision He makes.
10. God does not take any gifts that manipulates any decision He makes.
11. We can trust Him no matter what progress evil seems to make (Psalm 37:7-9).
