

## *New Covenant Promises*

*Exceeding great and precious promises that make you a partaker of the Divine Nature*

In the preceding chapter we discussed general principles of our covenant with God. In this chapter we will deal with the duties and obligations of the New Covenant believer as well as the rights and privileges of the New Covenant. Again, everything that God does has two parts: God's part and our part. He will not do our part and we cannot do his, so *we must know what our part is*. The covenant is a conditional agreement which requires both of those parts to operate properly. It is imperative that we know and understand the elements of that covenant. **2 Pe 1:4** *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.* The Word of God is eternal and it does not change. It is always the same, the question is how is it measured? It can be measured as laws that carry bondage and *obligations* or measured as *promises* that carry freedom and liberty. When you see them through the eyes and laws of love they become what **James 1:25** calls ...*the perfect law of liberty*.

**2 Pe 1:19-21** *We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation, For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved on by the Holy Ghost.* The Word of God is a more sure word of prophecy because it was written down for us so that we can look to the writing to confirm what it says. Also, it is not subject to private interpretation so it is the same word for all men. Moreover, it is the Word of God and not the word of men. As a result, *you become the deciding witness of the power of the Word of God in your life.*

**Rom 2: 14,15** *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another.* There is a knowledge in the heart of every man that there is a creator, and God put in man the desire to know his creator. God's desire was that we be in covenant with him and be empowered thereby. **Da 11:32**...*but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.* God expects us to know our covenant, which includes the knowledge of both his part and our part. He will not do our part and we cannot do his. Our covenant carries duties and obligations as well as rights and privileges. Let's look at some of these for purposes of illustration.

## **Duties and obligations**

You must accept the covenant in order to activate it in your life. **Rom 10:9-10** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

You must come through the door God created. **Jn 10:9** *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

You must accept it as it is with no changes **2 Peter 1:19-21** *We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation, For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved on by the Holy Ghost.*

It must be mixed with faith. **Heb 4:2** *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

You are to command your children after you **Genesis 18:19** .. *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgement; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

*We are to love one another.* In introducing the New Covenant, Jesus emphasizes it is a covenant of love. **John 13:34** *A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.* It was not really a new commandment, it was just that Jesus put a new emphasis on love. **Mt. 22:34-40**...*But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law. Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.* The commandment was not new and Jesus was not changing either the commandment to love nor the order of love, which must be God first and man closely behind, he was just reemphasizing love as the essential ingredient. In any event *we are to love one another.*

You are to tithe. The tithe follows the principle of seed time and harvest. As you recall from **Gen 1:29**, God introduced the principle of seed time harvest before principle of the tithe, so the tithe represents a form of seed. God's seed to the tithe process was a spiritual empowerment and man's seed has to be the thing he desires to be empowered. For that reason, Abraham gave tithes of all, and that is our covenant duty as well.

You are to renew your mind to the things of God. **Rom 12:2** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

You are to be holy. **1 Pe 1:16** *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

You are to be conformed to the image of Christ. **Rom 8:29** *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many bretheren.* When you were born again you were entrusted with the deposit of God in your life. That deposit made you to be the righteousness of God. **2 Cor 5:21...** *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* You are responsible to grow up the seed of righteousness that was put in you.

The above list is by no means all inclusive. As we progress through the give me a year process, we will be illuminating other duties and obligations that are responsibilities under the New Covenant, but for now consider this: all of the promises of God are conditional. Even the free gift of salvation must be accepted in order to be received. Moreover, it was not really free, it was just free to us. Jesus Christ paid an enormous price for that gift to be available to you and me and if he had not paid it, there would be no gift of salvation. Another way of saying this is that the manifestation of the promises of God will always require a seed sown, and if the seed is not sown the promise will not come to pass.

### ***Rights and privileges***

It bears repeating that the promises of God, or the rights and privileges that are ours under the New Covenant, require seed sown to come to pass, and they are conditional on those seeds being sown. If you are not seeing the manifestation of the promise it is either because the seed has not been sown or there is some time required for the seed to germinate and grow up to full manifestation. Nothing in life is really free and so it is with the promises of God. As with the duties and obligations of the New Covenant, the rights and privileges will be discussed in greater detail as we progress through the give me a year process, but for now let's look at some of the most important ones.

Deliverance from death to life **Rom 8:2** *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* There is a new birth that takes place when one believes in his heart and confesses with his mouth that Jesus is Lord. At that point we become alive to Christ and dead to the things of the world. **Gal 2:20...** *I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.* This is a process that we are responsible to exercise ourselves in, but positionally we are delivered at the moment of new the birth, and it delivers us from death to life and qualifies us for entrance into the New Covenant and entitles us to the rights and privileges of that covenant.

Spiritual law written on our hearts **Hebrews 8:8-10....** *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of*

*Judah; Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.*

This is an extraordinary privilege that God gave to man alone, to receive the deposit of spiritual law on the inside of man and the dominion and authority to exercise this law. When it works with the Spirit of God on the inside of man, it enables man to be a partaker of the exceeding great and precious promises that make us partakers of the divine nature. After the gift of eternal life, this was God's most powerful gift and it was to distinguish man from and to set him above all other elements of the created order. The angels, including Satan, were not given this gift. Only man was made in the image and likeness of God, Satan was not. What has happened is that Satan, by the process of observation and experimentation, has learned some of the elements of spiritual law, and uses them where he can to his advantage. However, under the new covenant we have with God, spiritual law was written on our minds and our hearts, we were given authority by God to use it, and the Holy Spirit was given to us to help in the process.

God did this by putting a little bit of himself inside us when we were born again. It was, if you will, a seed of God that was designed to grow up and become greater. Seeds do not change their nature, they grow up and become greater. This seed of God, which we call righteousness, was to be developed in us so that in all things and by all measures it would become stronger and more powerful than Satan and defeat any weapon he used against us. God spoke of this prophetically in **Is 54:17** *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgement thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.*

The operation of this gift changed under the new covenant. Before we were born again, we had a sin nature. When we were born again, we were recreated in the image and likeness of God, but we were recreated in our spirit or inner man. The outer man, or the natural man, which included our body and our soul, retained a sin nature. We were to take dominion over the natural man with our spirit by renewing our mind to the Word of God. Further:

1. God gave man a recreated spirit that is capable of receiving wisdom, knowledge and understanding that he was not capable of before. He has the ability to know and to understand the covenant, to know and understand how covenant law is impacted by the law of faith, and to actually by faith fulfill the covenant with God.
2. God gave man a helper, in the form of the Holy Spirit, who lives on the inside of man and who has a ministry helping man understand and fulfill his covenant with God.
3. God gave man an advocate in heaven, Jesus Christ the righteous, who ever liveth to make intercession for him and who also has a ministry helping man to fulfill his covenant with God.
4. God removed man's sin as far as the east is from the west, and man now has access to God and his promises that he did not have before.

Christ as our mediator **Hebrews 8:6** *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises*

Heir of the covenant with Abraham **Gal 3:6-9** *Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are children of Abraham, and the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all the nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*

Mysteries held back for man **1 Cor 2:7** *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.*

Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption **1 Cor 1:30** *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption*

Joint heirs with Jesus Christ **Rom 8:17** *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Wisdom and revelation knowledge **Eph 1:17** *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.*

Healing **Psa 107:20** *He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*

Kings and priests unto our God **Rev 5:10** *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth*

Delivered from the curse of the law **Gal 3:13-29** *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Once again the above list is not intended to be all inclusive, but just indicative of some of the many rights and privileges of the new covenant. We will be discussing many other rights and privileges as we go forward this year and still will not cover all of them. For now let us leave this as the end of the matter: there is no greater privilege than that of access to the presence of God. It is an honor to be in his presence, and we cannot be in his presence and not be transformed by it. The greatest gift of all, then, is the presence of God and our access to him.

