



1/15/26

Do you ever think of the fact that we're in a covenant relationship with God? It seems so foreign to me... but it's huge! It's a promise from God to us... Unconditional. To truly believe it changes the way we think, feel, and act. I hope and pray you and I will celebrate the unbreakable covenant we have with the Lord through Jesus today and every day.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Hebrews 10:11-23

On Sunday, Tim talked about Covenant. A covenant is a promise made between God and man. I thought it was really cool when Tim said that the marriage covenant is not just between husband and wife, but also with God. Tim also explained that the covenant God made with Noah and all living creatures was unconditional. It was not based on anything we have to do to keep it from being unbroken. The covenant God made with Moses and the Israelites when He gave them the law was conditional. He would bless them if they were obedient. They proved over and over again that they could not live up to the standards of the covenant. I think God allowed that so we would understand that we absolutely cannot earn His approval. There is no "making sure the good outweighs the bad."

So the NEW COVENANT is truly awesome because it is UNCONDITIONAL. It is the covenant God made with all who receive His Son as their Savior. It is God's promise, through the blood of Jesus, to save us from our sins and to cleanse from all unrighteousness, and to bring us home to Him for all eternity. We cannot earn this covenant, and we cannot break this covenant. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance with God. This is WONDERFUL news... especially when I actually let myself believe it!!! It is awesome when I actually stop trying to earn my keep with Him, but rather celebrate His mercy and grace lavished on me!

Hebrews 10:11-23 explains the joy of this awesome covenant with God.

Vs. 11-14 ~ Jewish priests were never allowed to sit down on the job. They had no chair

because they had to keep offering sacrifices for sin. Their sacrifices were never final. They were just like paying the interest on a loan, but never paying on the principal. Their sacrifices could not take away sin.

BUT! When Jesus offered Himself on the cross as the Lamb of God who **TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD**, and when He rose again from the dead, He sat down on His throne at the right hand of the Father. Jesus is the great high priest who offered the sacrifice, He is the Lamb who became the sacrifice, and He is the King who rules over all.

He offered this sacrifice for ALL time. He waited thousands of years after creation to be our sacrifice... and now He patiently waits until the day His enemies will become the footstool under His feet. Satan bruised His heel, but He will crush Satan's head under His feet, and all who reject Jesus and choose to be "sons of disobedience" by refusing to confess Jesus as Lord, will also be His footstool. God is patiently waiting until all who will call on the name of Jesus to be saved come and follow Him. Let me never mistake His patience as weakness or tolerance of sin.

But for all those who turn to Jesus and confess Him as their Lord and Master, His single offering places us in an incredible position of perfection that we did nothing to deserve or earn.

God is not ignorant, though. He knows that we still struggle with sin. He calls us perfect because He declares over us what He is now doing in us... sanctifying us. To sanctify us means to purify us so that we look more and more like Jesus until we are so like Him that we are completely restored to the perfect image He had created in Adam and Eve before they rebelled against Him. This is incredible news. Romans 8:29 says that He has predestined me to be like Jesus. My destiny is to be like Jesus, and because of His unconditional covenant with me... I WILL be like Jesus.

Vs. 15-18 ~ The Holy Spirit Himself, the One Jesus promised to send after He ascended to heaven, bears witness to me that Jesus' offering for my sin is truly complete. The Holy Spirit quotes a prophecy from Jeremiah 31:33, that the covenant God has made with me, He has written on my heart and my mind. When Jeremiah wrote this prophecy over 600 years before Jesus came, they were under the old covenant of the law... which could not take away sins. But Jesus fulfilled the law so that I could live by the new way of the Spirit.

The Spirit writes His word on my heart and my mind. My mind processes what He teaches me, and my heart is being sanctified and transformed so that my desires, feelings, and choices align more and more with the truth of His word. This is ALL from the Spirit!

I'm a little bummed right now because, even with the law written on my heart and my mind, I still sin... I still desire things that don't align with God. I still feel things that focus on SELF. I still choose things that displease my Savior. BUT I just need to read the next fulfilled prophecy taken from Jeremiah 31:34 when God says, "I will remember their sins and their

lawless deeds no more." God KNOWS that even with the Spirit dwelling in me and teaching me His word, I still sin. But this covenant is unconditional. His forgiveness covers ALL my debt. I am not condemned for my sin... He sees my sin and continues to work in my life to sanctify me. Now... because of Jesus, there is no longer any offering for sin! I do not have to do penance when I sin... trying to earn my way back into His "good graces." Jesus has already paid my debt. Now I can repent for my sin with the full security of knowing that God won't reject me or abandon me.

Vs. 19-23 ~ Therefore, since I have been forgiven and since there is no longer a need for a sacrifice... Since Jesus sat down... I have confidence! When the Jewish believers would have read this next statement, they would have been shocked! The author says, "We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus." Nobody but the priests were allowed to enter the holy places of the temple. For a regular person to enter the holy places would have been blasphemy! But through Jesus, I am made a priest (1 Peter 2:9). I am free to enter into His presence. I don't have to go through a cleansing ritual as the priests did. Jesus has already made me clean.

I have confidence to enter God's presence which is no longer confined to a physical temple. I am now His temple. The Spirit dwells in me and with me. This is all through the blood of Jesus, "through the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh." When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain that separated us from the holy of Holies in the temple was torn from top to bottom. It was a symbol of Jesus' body, broken for me. He is my great priest over the house of God. He is the sacrifice, the priest, and the King.

Because of Jesus, I can have confidence to draw near to Him with a TRUE heart... because He has written His word on my heart. I can draw near in full assurance because this covenant is not dependent on me living up to His perfect standards... It is God who is working in me to sanctify me and make me like Jesus. Because of Jesus, my heart has been sprinkled clean from the evil conscience that once controlled me. I have been washed with His pure water. There is no longer any need for me to wash myself. I don't have to clean myself up to come to Him. He welcomes me as I am, but never leaves me as I am.

O Lord, how do I respond to this security and forgiveness and permission I have in You? Vs. 23 tells me... Hold fast the confession of my hope without wavering. It is not dependent on me. God has promised that I am perfect before Him... completely His... and now He IS doing in me what He has declared over me. He is sanctifying me to become that perfect likeness of Jesus that He's promised I will be.

O Lord, let me not waver in confidence. Let me never shrink away from You in shame. Please help me to live in the security of knowing that Jesus' sacrifice was complete for all time. There is so much hope when I focus on what's true. Praise Your name!