

## CHAPTER 7

---

### LIMITING THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW COVENANT

*“For their heart was not steadfast with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant. But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them.”*

*“How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert! Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the **Holy One of Israel**. They did not remember His power: the day when He redeemed them from the enemy...” (Psalm 78 verses 37,40-42)*

Security is one of the most outstanding characteristics of the new covenant in Christ’s blood. The old covenant was based on obedience to the Mosaic Law. In Deuteronomy chapter 28, God tells us that obedience to the commandments obtains the “blessing,” while disobedience earned the “curse.” The curse was the result of breaking the Mosaic Law that was established in a blood covenant between God and Israel at Mount Sinai. Israel constantly broke the old covenant.

The New Covenant, with respect to the new birth and the gift of eternal life, is difficult to break. The two covenant heads in the New Covenant are God the Father and Jesus Christ—who represents the human race as the son of man. The covenant will remain in effect as long as both are alive and as long as each keeps the covenant with the other. Neither God the Father or Jesus Christ will ever die. Neither one will ever break the covenant with the other. This gives all true believers the assurance of an **everlasting** covenant, because its continuance does not rest in our obedience to a set of laws but in the faithfulness of the two covenant heads. Some Christians believe that salvation can be lost through the failure to confess and repent from all sin. They sincerely believe that the continuance of the New Covenant depends on their efforts when it actually depends on God’s faithfulness. We enter the New Covenant through faith in Christ. Our security from that moment on rests in God’s loving hands (John 10:28-30). Sin (as much as it should be avoided) does not have the power to cancel the eternal life of a believer. For this to happen, sin (that results from our actions) would have the power to break what the New Testament calls an

## *Limiting the Provisions of the New Covenant*

---

“everlasting” covenant. While a believer’s salvation is secure, other provisions of the New Covenant can be effected by our actions and, in some cases, restrict or block these provisions—as we shall see.

### **LACK OF KNOWLEDGE**

In the opening pages of the book of Joshua, God gives some important instructions...

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”(Joshua 1:8)*

Most Christians believe that God does whatever he wants regardless what the Bible says. Whatever happens, whether good or bad, it must be God’s will (or an act of His discipline) so that we can learn to be more holy and pious. This is a passive form of theology that does not necessarily reflect God’s true intentions. God’s will succeeds in our lives when we align ourselves with His Word. God’s Word gives us the provisions of the covenant that He initiated. If we fail to spend the time to learn the provisions, we can’t align ourselves with God’s will—and we can’t appropriate the benefits. Salvation is a good example of this. Someone made the effort to tell you about Jesus and how He suffered at the cross so you could have eternal life. Somewhere you obtained the knowledge that putting faith in Jesus Christ was all that was necessary for salvation. You learned that God wanted you to be saved and that he extended eternal life to you as a free gift. Once you had the knowledge, you got in line with God’s will. You acted on this knowledge by asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. God did not save you—against your will—because He knew it was the best thing for you. God never forces salvation on anyone—even though He knows that Hell is your final destiny. You had to have the knowledge of God’s will first. Then, you acted on that knowledge by receiving Jesus Christ. God had to wait for you to **appropriate** His promise of salvation, even though it was always His will for you to be saved and gain heaven as your home (I Timothy 2:1-4, II Peter 3:9). This is the way it works with eternal life (the first provision of the covenant)—and it works the same way with the other covenant provisions and benefits. If you understand this truth, you can see why God commanded Joshua to meditate in the Word.

Joshua could make his way prosperous and have good success by knowing what he possessed under the covenant that was in force during his time—and basing his life on this knowledge. (Notice that God did not tell Joshua that he would be poor and have failure.)

Hosea 4:6 says that God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Christians today do not take this admonishment seriously. They believe God does whatever He wants whether they have knowledge or not. Due to wrong teaching many believe we have no part to play in experiencing God's benefits and that these blessings are bestowed upon us only if He chooses to do so. Many never understand that New Testament covenant benefits has **everything** to do with our knowledge of what belongs to us. No knowledge...no benefits. Limited knowledge...limited benefits. You can't experience and exercise faith in what you don't know. If you don't know what belongs to you in the New Covenant, the enemy will eventually bring destruction into your life. The New Covenant of Jesus Christ has all the provisions necessary to effectively deal with anything that might come our way. Contrary to popular religious teaching, God does not make individual decisions on who gets blessed and who does not. The Bible clearly teaches that He shows no such favoritism. The decision in this matter rests with you. He has already provided His blessing. (Ephesians 1:3, Galatians 3:13-14).

### **MISDIRECTED FAITH AND UNBELIEF**

A common assertion made by modern day faith teachers is that some people do not have faith. Churchgoers are sometimes made to feel guilty because they are taught that sickness, suffering and death is the result of their lack of faith. As a result, these teachers become the target of much criticism. Some of the more fundamentalist Bible teachers feel this is cruelty, especially if the person being told they have no faith is weak, hopeless and terminally ill. Unfortunately, some people have died from refusing to take needed medication because some preacher told them they were healed—and to prove it they were instructed to no longer take their medicine. Not taking medication does not prove anyone's faith. It's this treatment of a most vital Biblical subject that has caused many to reject any teachings on faith. Yet, the other side of the coin is that many people have died because they were not told that God continues to heal sick people today. I have found that some Christians are quick to condemn any teaching

## *Limiting the Provisions of the New Covenant*

---

about faith to obtain physical healing because they fail to separate “wrong doctrine” from “right doctrine”—and essentially “throw the baby out with the bath water” by rejecting this precious covenant benefit.

Failure to appropriate covenant benefits is usually the result of misdirected faith, rather than a lack of faith. Knowing the truth of what God has provided (Hosea 4:6, John 8:32) is a prerequisite to experiencing covenant benefits. Hearing God’s Word produces faith (Romans 10:17). Religious tradition and/or philosophy taught in the place of God’s Word redirects a person’s faith onto religion and human reason commonly found within modern day Christianity. This “counterfeit truth” produces a “counterfeit faith” that sounds godly and right. Many Christians desiring to be healed of a physical illness will say, “God is able to heal me—I believe it!” A statement like this may give us a good, warm religious feeling—but unless it’s grounded on an absolute assurance that God is not only able to heal us but also wants us to be healed right **now**—the words mean nothing. Your statement that God is able to heal doesn’t provide what’s needed to actually get healed. True Bible faith personally **appropriates** the covenant benefit of physical healing because it belongs to the believer **in Christ**. Many wrongly teach that God heals only if He thinks it’s wise to do so. By thinking this way your faith is misdirected onto a false religious philosophy rather than God’s Word. The result—you stay sick.

Unbelief is different than misdirected faith. Unbelief is a decision “not to believe” and is equated with disobedience (Hebrews 4:1-11). Misdirected faith believes something that is not true. Unbelief says, “I refuse to believe.” Using the area of salvation again as an example, someone may tell you that keeping the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament and trying to be a good person is all that is required to be a Christian. If you allow yourself to believe this, your faith is **misdirected** onto a “works based salvation,” a religious falsehood. However, if someone told you about Jesus dying on the cross so that you could be saved and you rejected it, this is **unbelief**. You have been given the knowledge to be saved, but you refuse to accept it. Unbelief can also be exercised by a Christian toward any one of the many provisions of the New Covenant. Both unbelief and misdirected faith have the same result: a failure to receive the benefit of something God has already given you.

This is vividly illustrated in Mark 6:1-6. The people rejected Jesus in His own hometown. The people refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ. They only saw Him as “the carpenter, the Son of Mary.” Even though Jesus performed mighty miracles of healing in other places, the Bible says that, “He could do no mighty work there...and He marveled because of their unbelief.” Some teach that God doesn’t heal anymore and that God doesn’t do miracles. There is an abundance of good-looking and popular religious unbelief in the modern church. This is tragic.

### **MENTAL ASSENT**

One of the most unfortunate consequences of not knowing the nature of true Bible faith is the misapplication of mental assent. The majority of Christians mistake mental assent for faith. Mental assent is an intellectual agreement with a fact or opinion. When you hear people say, “I believe the Bible from cover to cover,” many times they are saying, “I agree with the Bible from cover to cover.” **Agreeing with the existence of God or the fact that salvation through Christ is true does not save you.** Agreement requires no action on our part. Yet, Bible faith is demonstrated and validated by a corresponding action. Many times we use the word “believe” when we really mean mental agreement or acknowledgment. For most Christians, mental assent is merely an attempt to “believe with your heart” by using your head. The difference between the heart and the intellect is seen in Proverbs 3:5-6...

*“Trust in the Lord **with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.**”*

In this scripture, trust is a characteristic of the heart while understanding is something of the head, or mind. We are instructed to follow our heart—not the intellect. Most modern day Christians lean on their intellect because they cannot tell the difference between the head and the heart. Mark 11:23 addresses the same subject...

*“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ **and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.**”*

## *Limiting the Provisions of the New Covenant*

---

Mark 11:23 is conditional upon several things. First, the person representing “whoever” in this Scripture—must speak or say something. Second, a belief grounded in the **heart** concerning the spoken words must be present. Most Christians try to substitute the head for the heart in this scripture, and it will not work. The result of replacing faith (grounded in the heart) with mental assent is a failure to receive the covenant provisions God wants you to have. I personally believe lack of knowledge, mental assent and misdirected faith to be the three greatest hindrances to receiving the benefits of the New Covenant. I have heard pastors teach that God never told us to throw out our intellect when we come to Jesus. They make this statement to illustrate that you still need to intellectually understand the Bible—and this is generally correct. But, depending totally on our intellect or attempting to believe with our intellect as many modern churches suggest—is not the Bible kind of faith.

### WHAT ABOUT JOB?

Inadvertently, someone will point to the story of Job as an example that some of the benefits found in the new covenant in Christ’s blood are not available to us. Healing and prosperity cannot always be God’s will because, “look what God allowed in Job’s life.”

As a young Christian, this always puzzled me. As I continued my studies, I remember my excitement as I began to understand the book of Job in the context of a covenant. It was like finding the missing piece to a complex puzzle. Bible theologians believe that Job lived many years before Abraham was born. The Book of Job is considered the oldest in the Bible. Job’s life predates the Abrahamic blood covenant that was the first and only known covenant of its kind in the earth. After God cut the covenant with Abraham, the only way to enter it was to be a member of Abraham’s family. There is no evidence that Job and Abraham were ever related. The book of Job describes the life of a holy man **outside** of a blood covenant with God! Job had no covenant commitment from God—no covenant promises to put faith in—no covenant benefits—and no covenant union with God on which to depend. Yet, Abraham and New Testament Christians today possess these things.

Many speculate that it was a “self righteousness” on Job’s part that caused God to deal with him the way He did. Others believe it was fear or

some sin in Job's life. These explanations may be popular—but they completely miss the mark. The real issue is how God relates with a man outside of a covenant made with blood. I believe one reason God put the book of Job in the Bible is to illustrate this point.

Job is a picture of how God deals with humanity without the intervening power of a blood covenant. Traditional teaching falsely puts forth Job as an example of how New Covenant believers should relate with God! Is there any wonder why Christians are confused and have a warped conception of who God is?

### WHY SATAN HATES THE CHRISTIAN

You can't be a believer in Christ for very long without realizing that there is someone who hates you and is committed to your destruction. That "someone" is Satan, the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). Have you ever wondered why he hates Christians so much? In Isaiah 14:12-14 the following is stated about Satan (also called Lucifer).

*"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High."*

Satan's desire is to "be like the Most High." Do you know that through the diatheke God has given you what Satan lusts for and can not have? Satan wants to be like God. He wants God's authority and position—and is thrown out of heaven for leading a rebellion to obtain it. Every believer in Christ has been given this position through Christ's everlasting blood covenant. Remember that a blood covenant is a union of two individuals. We enjoy union with God through the new covenant in Christ's blood. This union allows us to share God's position and authority. The apostle Paul gives us a glimpse into our position in God's authority in I Corinthians 6:2-3...

*"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the*

## *Limiting the Provisions of the New Covenant*

---

*smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?"*

Paul said that Christians would judge angels. These are the angels who followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God. Satan is an angel. Paul wrote in II Corinthians 11:14 that Satan appears as an “angel of light.” The prophet Ezekiel dedicated a whole chapter to the “Prince of Tyre,” which is understood to be Lucifer or Satan. In Ezekiel 28:14, Lucifer is called “the anointed cherub who covers.” A cherub is an angel. Satan’s destiny is to be judged by those he once dominated since the time of Adam’s transgression. Now, because of the new covenant in the blood of Christ, our defeat has been turned to victory and we rule over him. Don’t you think this would cause him to get just a little angry?

### AN IMPORTANT PERSONAL DECISION



Do you want to partake of the New Covenant? If you have made Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, you are already part of this monumental spiritual transaction. If you are someone who has never made a commitment to Christ, you can do so by following the conditions of Romans 10:9-10 outlined below. Believing in Christ is the most important decision a person can make in life. It determines whether you will enjoy eternal life with God or experience eternal death and separation from God when this earthly life is over. The decision is not automatically made for you. You must make the decision to receive God’s love—or reject it.

- ◆ **First**, recognize that you are a spiritual slave in bondage to sin. It is the sin nature of man (or man’s spirit) that God’s salvation affects. You cannot free yourself from this kind of bondage. Only God in the person of Jesus Christ can set you free.
- ◆ **Second**, confess Jesus as Lord. This involves a personal recognition of authority. It is a surrendering of your life to Jesus and to His authority as God. The word “Lord” as used in New Testament salvation means God. Acknowledging Jesus as the Lord of your life causes you to cease living “your way” and to start living His way. It is “repenting” (or turning away) from the sin of not believing in Christ to faith in Christ.



- ◆ **Third**, believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. Simply, this involves placing your faith in the finished work of the cross. It is placing total dependency and trust in Christ's blood sacrifice to deal with your sin. Belief (or faith) in Christ's death, burial and resurrection is evidenced by rest. God's rest for the Christian means to cease all efforts to earn salvation through obedience to religious law or good works and to depend entirely on the completed new covenant in Christ's blood. The resurrection of Jesus three days following his crucifixion is not a fable or a nice story told in Sunday school. Saint Paul taught that a belief in Jesus' resurrection from the dead is imperative for salvation. It is an acknowledgment that Jesus victoriously ended sin's dominion over your life. Christ's resurrection is evidence of that fact.

The New Testament teaches that if you meet these conditions you will be saved. Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ is the **only** doorway into God's covenant promises.

Many people express their faith through a prayer like this...

*“Heavenly Father, I recognize that I need Jesus in my life. I understand that I am in need of salvation and that I can do nothing to save myself. I believe that you resurrected (raised) Jesus from the dead so that I could be forgiven, justified and made righteous. I confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and my God. I give Him total control of my life right now. Thank you, Father, for sending your Son to die for me so that I would not perish but have everlasting life. From this moment on I receive my personal salvation as a completed work—because the blood of Jesus paid for it—and your Word promised it. Thank you for bringing me into Your family as Your child and making me a partaker of the New Covenant.”*

Millions of Christians started their walk with God by praying a simple prayer like the one above. Salvation is a free gift. It doesn't take much effort to receive a free gift. God's requirement is that you reach out and take what He graciously provides. Even though salvation is free to us, it did not come cheap. It cost God everything He had. So great was His love for you. (Romans 5:14-21, Romans 6:23)

## *Limiting the Provisions of the New Covenant*

---

Earlier, we covered two belief systems that started in the opening chapters of Genesis (the story of Cain and Abel) and continued throughout the Bible. We still have these two belief systems in the church today. The two belief systems represent two types of churches that co-exist: The true Church of Jesus Christ and the false church. The false church is a counterfeit of the real one. The false church looks and sounds similar to the true Church and it crosses all denominational and religious lines. The people that make up the false church are serious and sincere about what they believe. They have a strong desire to please God and live godly lives. The tragedy about the people in the false church is that they are headed for eternal destruction while believing they are right with God. They believe that their church attendance, church affiliation, good works and sincere commitment somehow causes God to decide that they are worthy of heaven when this earthly life is over. Hollywood has done an excellent job of presenting this type of counterfeit Christianity as the real thing.

A wrong understanding of the love of God causes another tragedy. Many think that being loved by God means that they are automatically heaven bound. Some say, “God won’t allow me to go to hell because He is a God of love.” This assumption is dangerously incorrect. God’s love was expressed by sending His Son Jesus to die for you and me (John 3:16) but the benefits of Jesus’ death are not automatically binding. God does not force anything He has to offer on any one. The Bible suggests that God goes to great lengths to protect your free will. It is for this reason that **salvation cannot take affect in your life until you willingly receive it**. You don’t just wake up one day and realize that God has transformed you into a Christian. You have to ask God for it in faith. Don’t fall into the trap of presumption when it comes to God’s love. Hell is filled with people for whom Jesus died. Never forget that. The death and resurrection of Christ did nothing for them because they did not appropriate the benefits for themselves by obeying the simple conditions of faith. Because salvation is offered as a free gift...their fate is a tragedy.

Proverbs 14:12 perfectly describes the destiny of the false church...

*“There is **a way** which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”*

Authentic Christianity places no dependence on church attendance, church affiliation, conduct or good works to secure salvation. Real

---

Christians know eternal life (or being saved, going to heaven, born-again, etc.) comes only as a free, unmerited gift through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Romans 6:23 describes the destiny of the true Church...

*“...the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Entering the New Covenant is a simple step of faith. Walking in the provisions of this covenant is a life-long experience as you discover the many benefits of Christ’s salvation.

I have not exhausted the revelation of the new covenant in Christ’s blood. There is more good news waiting to be rediscovered. As you read the Bible, covenant can be seen on every page—if you’re looking for it. I hope this study is helpful in nurturing your interest in this important end time subject. I firmly believe the revelation of the new covenant in Christ’s blood is the key that unlocks the power of God for the Christian. I am also hopeful that this study has opened your eyes to the deception of “religion” that continues to keep the church in a place of powerlessness. It is time for Christians to throw off the bondage of religion and embrace the freedom that comes through knowing the truth. This truth is in Jesus Christ and the everlasting covenant in His blood.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

I am indebted to the students of the Bible who initially brought us the message of the blood covenant of Jesus Christ. We are where we are because of the faithfulness of pastors, teachers and Holy Spirit gifted writers who labor to give us instruction from God's Word. The Christian faith is to be transmitted through the process of "discipleship." In the great commission, Jesus told us to "go into all the world and make disciples of the nations." A disciple is simply a student or learner. Ideally, a student learns what another has taught and uses this knowledge to gain more.

I wish to credit several key Bible teachers for making this study possible. These teachers come from a diverse religious background. Teachers who instruct from a position of the "Blood Covenant" are difficult to find. I have learned the wisdom of receiving Bible truth from those with whom I may not fully agree. The comments below do not indicate that I am in complete agreement with the personal beliefs of the individual—yet I acknowledge their spiritual input into the Church on the subject of covenant.

- ◆ **Malcolm Smith:** Author of the book "Blood Brothers In Christ" published by Fleming Revell Company. Malcolm is a well-known Bible teacher and author. I can't remember when or how I came in contact with his ministry. His book opened my eyes to the importance of covenant. I would recommend this book to any Christian, especially new believers. It offers a solid foundation on the subject of the Lord's Table.
- ◆ **Father Ed Dillon:** Franciscan Roman Catholic Priest. I was invited to several events where Father Ed spoke on the subject of the marriage covenant. He also went into considerable detail about the ancient blood covenant ceremony and the similarities with marital commitment. I found this man to be someone who has a sincere faith in Jesus Christ and a deep understanding of the Scriptures.
- ◆ **E. W. Kenyon:** Author of the book "The Blood Covenant" (Available through most Christian bookstores). Kenyon is well known in both Pentecostal and Charismatic circles. I read Kenyon's book and found it to be very informative despite its small size. I would recommend it to any Christian desiring to know more about their covenant with God.

## *The Mystery of the Faith*

---

- ◆ **Andrew Murry:** Author of the book “Covenants & Blessings” published by Whitaker House. Andrew Murry is a well-known and respected author. I found that this book thoroughly covered the subject of covenant and the rights and privledges of the believer.
- ◆ **Rick Godwin:** Senior pastor at Eagle’s Nest Christian Fellowship in San Antonio, Texas. Rick taught a series of 5 messages entitled “God Speaks To You Through His Covenants.” These teachings shed much light on our incredible covenant with God. Rick received his theological training as a Baptist minister but now pastors a Full Gospel fellowship.