

## Christmas Is Coming: How Do I Act?

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### Crossing Into Covenant Thinking

Let me explain something to you:

- The Bible is a **covenant** book.
- Our God is a **covenant** God.

The Bible says, God is a covenant-**making** and covenant-**keeping** God.

1. Everything God has done with the human race has been done in **covenant**.
2. The rest of your life, God will never interact with you in any positive way **outside** of covenant.

Covenant means: a **personal solid** relationship.

When you become born again, you came into a **serious, binding** relationship between you and God.

3. Jesus made it available through His **death** and it is called the **New** Covenant.

### Hebrews 8:6-7

Verse 8 – finding fault with them...

The word, them (**plural**): all the Old Testament Covenants (because there were **many**)

- God found fault with **all** of them.
- Not one of them **satisfied** God's standard for relationship.

## Hebrews 8:8-9

The book of Hebrews was written to Israel who were living in the Old Covenant.

The book of Hebrews was written to help a Jewish person make the transition from the Old Covenant into the New Covenant.

Today: How do we act? Act in covenant

To begin describing covenant: There are always 3 elements in God's covenant we need to know what they are because it's how we relate to God.

Here is a spiritual law:

- You must have all three elements and if you take one out you don't have covenant.

The first thing that is present in any Biblical covenant is:

A. A promise or promises

## Hebrews 8:6

A covenant begins with a promise

- Verse 6 says, Jesus made a better covenant with better promises.
4. Jesus has made many promises to us to come into relationship with you is based on my promises I give you. This means God relates to us based on His Word.

## Hebrews 6:11-12

## Hebrews 6:13-20

Let me interpret it for you:

- He is saying you have to get this – the **promises**
  - He has made an **oath** to you
  - He swears or makes this **oath** to Himself because there is no one **greater** than Himself.
5. God swore to Himself letting you know it will be done if you come in **agreement** and do **your** part.

But God: He is a **certain** God. If He ever breaks one word of His promise, He has to **curse** Himself.

There is not one **possibility** He will curse Himself or break a **promise**.

6. This truth is the **anchor** of your soul.

## Hebrews 13:8

- Jesus will never **lie** to me.
- He will never **lead** me on.
- He will never **break** a promise.

He makes covenant and He **keeps** it.

The Bible is your **promise** land.

Your destiny is in your **Bible**.

Peter talks about a surety in God never breaks His promises.

## 2 Peter 1:2-4

7. Peter says the way God has given us everything is through His promises, so be a **partaker** of the Divine.

How do I act: **Partake** of all promises and **become** what the promise says.

You will never take a **step** in life that there is not a covenant promise for.

Divine nature – is your **experience** with God.

- Through His promises, you become a **partaker** of His divine nature.

### **Matthew 6:33-34**

Second element of covenant:

- B. A **blood** sacrifice

The word covenant also means, “to **cut**”

8. You don't make a covenant or sign a covenant – you **cut** a covenant.

### **Matthew 26:28**

Blood sacrifice is in the **New** Covenant.

### **Hebrews 10:11**

- Did you know all the millions of animals that were sacrificed, not one sin was **forgiven**?
- In the Holy of holies, a Mercy Seat – they brought the lamb's blood in once a year and **poured** it on the Mercy Seat.

Mercy Seat – the word means “to **cover**”

9. All the blood sacrifice did not take away sin, they just **covered** sin so God could relate to man on a very **superficial** level.

In the Old Testament, God rarely had an **intimate** relationship with someone.

When Jesus died, the **veil** in the temple ripped from the top down and the Spirit of God came out of the Holy of hollies.

He now lives in us, in our **spirit**.

### **Hebrews 10:12-14**

10. When Jesus died and shed His blood, He, Jesus totally **erased** sin which produced an ability for total **intimacy** with God.

- That's the new versus the old.

The new is so good, God **forgets** your sin.

The only one that remembers is **you**, your **friends**, and the **Devil**.

1 John 1:9 says to the **Christian**

### **1 John 1:9**

The third element:

C. The **sign**

There is always a **sign** when there is a covenant.

Example:

- God made a covenant with Noah – the **rainbow**
- God made a covenant with Abraham – **circumcision**
- God made a sign with Moses – **Sabbath** day

The sign of the covenant does two things:

First – when the sign is established, it **seals** the deal / covenant.

Second – It also proclaims it **continues**

- \* When God sees the covenant sign, He becomes very passionate and or **romantic**.
- \* When He doesn't see the sign, it doesn't **remind** Him of the covenant.

Covenant signs are very important to God.

There are 3 signs in the New Covenant.

- The **Holy Spirit**
  - Baptism of the Holy Spirit was the sign God entered into a New Covenant called the **Church** – Day of Pentecost

### **Ephesians 1:11-14**

- God **sealed** the covenant with the Holy Spirit.

When God sees us respecting the Holy Spirit, inviting Him into our lives, it is a **sign** to God we are walking in the covenant.

Let me show you a familiar scripture of God's passion of the Holy Spirit as a sign.

## **Luke 12:10**

Second sign:

- **Water Baptism**

## **Mark 16:16**

## **Colossians 2:9-12** deeper revelation

- Colossians 2 says:
  - In the Old Testament, they had to be **circumcised**.
  - Water baptism is circumcision not made by hands, but of **Christ**.
  - It's done in your **heart**.
- When you go down in baptismal waters, it is the sign of you being buried with **Christ** – Jesus Christ comes and takes away a part of you that was **unclean**.
- A greater ability of **hearing** God and victory over **sin**.

Physical circumcision – **cleanliness** and **sensitivity**

Third sign

- **Communion**

## **1 Corinthians 11:23-30**

1 Corinthians 10 calls communion, the cup of **bleasing**

11. Every single time you take communion, you are reminding God you are in covenant with Him and He gets all **stirred up**.

It releases covenant blessings:

- **Healing**
- **Deliverance**

Paul said: Some people are dead because they're not **serious**.

- **Weak** and **sick**

The promises – we must **believe**

The blood – we must **receive**

The sign – we must **respect**

If we come into this covenant **rightly**, these are huge **blessings** in our future.