

Blessings for Adhering to the Covenant

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 16

Introduction

- During a human covenant ceremony, covenant partners pronounce blessings over each other, including their rights & privileges as partners
- Partners also identify all their assets (money, property, possessions)
 - Each partner is entitled to use the other's possessions & resources as his own
 - Not necessary to ask permission; like family property, it's jointly-owned

Covenant Blessings

- Whatever God has belongs to us! That's covenant!
- Kingdom resources are available to us
 - Mt 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
 - Did Jesus have a poor self image?
 - Jn 5:19, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."
 - Jn 8:28(c), "... I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me."
 - It's recognizing our relative inadequacy compared to God's all-sufficiency
 - What does Matthew 5:3 mean, the kingdom of heaven belongs to such people?
 - Mt 19:14, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"
 - Lk 12:32, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."
 - The kingdom of heaven belongs to us, including its resources, & Father is pleased to give it to us
 - Jn 16:14-15, ¹⁴ "He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."
 - Why would Holy Spirit make this known to us?
 - Eph 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."
 - In covenant, God essentially says, "All that I am and all that I have I give to you."
- God clearly makes his kingdom available to us to meet our needs & solve our problems, but is that the only reason?
 - Col 3:1-2, ¹ "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."
- We need to identify the blessings we receive in our covenant with God, so we know what's available to us & how we can receive it
 - Eph 2:8, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith"

- Would it be appropriate for us to use our spiritual authority to command God to save us?
- We need to understand what God makes available to us; primarily, so we know we have access to it, but also, so we don't use our spiritual authority inappropriately

Covenant Blessings God Receives from Us

- Mt 5:16 "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."
 - What blessing does Father receive, according to this verse?
 - What does it mean to "let your light shine before men"?
- Heb 13:15 "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name."
 - What blessing is this?
 - What does "sacrifice of praise" imply and how do we do it?
 - Greek word translated "confess" literally means "to say the same thing"
 - What's the significance of God's name?
 - What does it mean to confess God's name?
- How do we bless God by expressing our love to him through words & deeds?

Personal Liabilities & Obligations

- Just as each person's assets become their partner's, so do their liabilities & obligations
- 2 Co 5:21, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
 - According to this verse, what liability or obligation did we have that Jesus took on?
 - What must a sinner do to stop being a sinner & avoid going to hell?

Questions

- What kingdom responsibilities or obligations do covenant blessings impose on us?
- How must receiving his blessings affect our thinking?
- How do his blessings enable us to be more effective in his kingdom?

Sidebar

- Some would say because we're in covenant with God, we're also in covenant with each other
- Due to complete absence of scriptural evidence, you & I are not in covenant with each other, even though some of the things scripture tells us to do sound like covenant

Conclusion

- In covenant, each partner is entitled to use the other's possessions & resources as his own
- This week, meditate on the attached list of blessings we receive from God

Covenant Blessings We Receive from God

Covenant Blessings from God that Change Our Condition

- Salvation (Gk: *sozo*)
 - Lk 10:10, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”
 - 1 Th 5:9, “For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Cleanses our conscience
 - Heb 9:14, “How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death.”
- Gives us life
 - spiritual: 2 Co 3:6, “He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”
 - eternal: Ro 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - physical: Rom 8:11, “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”
- Redeems us (liberates, ransoms, delivers from harm or evil)
 - Tit 2:14, “... who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”
- Holy Spirit sanctifies us (makes us holy, sets us apart, dedicates us to himself)
 - Ro 15:16, “... so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”
 - Col 1:22, “But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.”
- Transforms us
 - Rom 8:29, “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
 - 2 Co 3:18, “And we ... are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
- Purifies, cleanses, washes us
 - 1 Jn 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”
- Glorifies us
 - Ro 8:30, “And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

Covenant Blessings from God that Change Our Relationship with Him

- Accepts, welcomes us
 - Ro 15:7, “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”
- Gives us access to himself
 - Eph 2:18, “For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”
- Adopts us; makes us his heirs
 - Eph 1:4(c)-5, “In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in

- accordance with his pleasure and will.”
- Rom 8:17, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”
 - Heb 9:15, “For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.”
 - Forgives, justifies us (acquits, pardons, vindicates; no condemnation)
 - Mt 26:28, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
 - Ro 3:22-24, “There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”
 - Ro 5:9, “Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”
 - Makes peace with us
 - Rom 5:1, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - Makes us righteousness (innocent, conforms to God’s standards, in right relationship)
 - Ro 3:22, “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”
 - Holy Spirit acts in us in God’s behalf
 - Rom 5:5, “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”
 - Holy Spirit acts in us in Jesus’ behalf
 - Jn 14:26, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name....”
 - Holy Spirit baptizes us
 - Acts 11:16, “Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”
 - Holy Spirit fills us
 - Acts 13:52, “And the disciples were [continually] filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”
 - Holy Spirit is deposit or guarantee of our inheritance
 - 2 Co 1:21(c)-22, “He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”
 - 2 Co 5:5 “Now it is God who has ... given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”
 - Holy Spirit seals us (identity, relationship)
 - Eph 4:30, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Covenant Blessings from God that Change Our Ability

- Assigns us duty, responsibility, role
 - Acts 23:1, “Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, ‘My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.’”
- Gives us *charismata* (grace gifts)
 - Ro 12:6, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.”
- Gives us power for ability, competence, effectiveness
 - 2 Co 3:5, “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.”

- Gives us power for signs, miracles
 - Rom 15:19, "... by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit."
- Predestines our lives
 - Eph 1:5, "... he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."
- Enables us to reign in life, during millennium & eternity
 - Ro 5:17, "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."
 - Rev 2:26 "To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations."
 - Rev 20:6, "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years."
 - Rev 22:5(c), "And they will reign for ever and ever."

Covenant Blessings from God that Provide for Us

- Deliverance from danger (Gk: *sozo*)
 - Rom 5:9, "Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!"
- Healing (Gk: *sozo*)
 - Mk 5:34, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."
- Angelic ministry
 - Heb 1:14, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"
- Holy Spirit assists, cooperates with us
 - Mk 13:1(b), "Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit."
 - 2 Tim 1:14, "Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."
- Holy Spirit confirms, verifies, testifies
 - Acts 15:28, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements"
 - Ro 8:16, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."
 - Heb 10:15(a), "The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this."
- Makes kingdom resources available to us
 - Mt 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
 - Mt 19:14, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"
 - Lk 12:32, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."
 - Jn 16:14-15, ¹⁴ "He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."
 - Eph 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in

the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

- Responds to our requests
 - Jn 14:13-14, ¹³ “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”
 - Jn 15:7-8, ⁷ “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”
 - Jn 16:23(c)-24, “I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”
 - 1 Jn 5:14-15, ¹⁴ “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.”
- Provides for our daily needs
 - Mt 6:31-33, ³¹ “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
 - 2 Ptr 1:3(a), “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness.”
- Holy Spirit directs, leads, prompts, motivates, compels
 - Acts 8:29, “The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’”
 - Acts 20:22, “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.”
 - Rom 8:14 “... those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”
- Holy Spirit gives us wisdom
 - Eph 1:17, “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”
- Holy Spirit serves as our legal counsel & advocate, intercedes for us
 - Jn 14:16-17(a), “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.”
 - Rom 8:26, “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”
- Holy Spirit reveals (truth, reality), warns
 - Jn 16:13, “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.”
 - Acts 20:23, “I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.”
 - 1 Co 2:10, “... but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.”
- Holy Spirit teaches, gives understanding, reminds, instructs
 - Jn 14:26, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
 - Acts 13:2, “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”
 - 1 Co 12:12, “We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.”