

Chapter Three

Jesus Is The New Covenant

Consider God's covenant promise to Israel in the 40 year wandering. It involved three parts. In the first part, God promised "I will be their God and they shall be my people." That promise bore such astonishing fruit as this: there were no feeble knees among them, nor did any of the soles of their shoes wear out. There was no sickness for forty years. Think about this. Let it sink into your spirit for a moment.

In forty years, they were never sick or hurt.¹ Their feet never even swelled, and their clothing never wore out, all because of the covenant relationship they had with God. I have great news. Today, because of the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, God is also our God and we are His people. God will do at least as much for His New Testament believers now that Jesus Christ has already come, and has given His gift of the Holy Spirit. Ponder these concepts from Hebrews chapters eight through ten, until they become a part of you.

We cannot utilize what we do not believe. And most people have difficulty believing what they do not know. This is why Hosea 4:6 declares that God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

The second part of the Old Testament covenant is also repeated in the New Covenant: "I will remember your sins and iniquities no more." This is a crucial step in developing confidence and intimacy with the Lord. We cannot draw near to Him if we are condemned and feeling unworthy in our own heart. He really does cast our sins as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12) when we humble ourselves before Him and ask for forgiveness of our sin (I John 1:9).

Now for the third piece of the New Covenant. Unlike the third part of the covenant to Israel (which involved obeying the law), the third part of our New Testament covenant involves receiving Jesus, the Living Word (instead of the dead law), written into our hearts. This Living Word (and this is not talking about the written Scriptures) is what God inscribes into our hearts. This third part of the New Covenant is all about keeping an active relationship with Jesus Christ. We can read all about it in Hebrews chapters eight through ten.

It is this third aspect of the New Covenant, the part about relationship with Jesus Christ, the living Word of God written into our hearts, which is crucial to the Christian walk today. This is the part which separates the Christian religion from true Christianity – a personal fellowship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Without a personal friendship with Jesus Christ, Christianity is sophisticated paganism, a form of godliness without power which substitutes for the real thing. Jesus encountered such religion whenever He tried to share with the Pharisees, and we encounter it everywhere today in churches which do not have signs, miracles, and wonders following.

¹ Psalm 105:37; Deuteronomy 8:4; 29:5; Nehemiah 9:21, et.al.

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How Can I Get My Healing From God?

How does this New Covenant, and specifically our intimate personal relationship with Jesus, relate to healing? The same way that having no sickness for forty years relates. Keep the covenant, get the healing. It's just that simple.

So how do we keep the covenant? In a nutshell, we keep it by getting on a friendship basis with Jesus Christ. That's what keeping our oil lamp full is all about (Matthew 25:1-12) and it is also what all the other Kingdom parables of Matthew 13 are describing. May we study these Kingdom parables and let them sink into our hearts, and may we grow to know that the Kingdom of God² is really the personal the presence of the King, Jesus Christ.

So, here are some examples of healing to help illustrate what I mean. The two concepts we must realize are:

1. Every believer has spiritual authority over darkness (including sickness and infirmity)
2. Our escape from the bondage of spiritual darkness hinges on hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord

² The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are considered to be one and the same. Jesus equated them together in *Matthew 19:23-24* *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into **the kingdom of heaven**. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into **the kingdom of God**.*

An excellent way to think of the Kingdom is this: the Kingdom is the presence of the King, Jesus Christ. Thus to enter His presence is to enter in the Kingdom. When we understand that the Kingdom is His presence, then all the parables of Matthew 13 and other places make particularly wonderful sense! We are to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of our needs are supplied (Matthew 6:33). Where else can one receive such blessings except they labor to enter His rest, His presence, His Kingdom! The Gospel of the Kingdom which Jesus Christ came to preach is the Gospel of His presence, and it is when this is preached throughout the whole world, then shall the King return (Matthew 24:14).

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