

Living the New Covenant

Justified by faith

Even greater promises

Having the fruit of the Spirit

Operating with spiritual giftings

Victorious in the full armor of God

A more sure word of prophecy

Having life, and life more abundantly

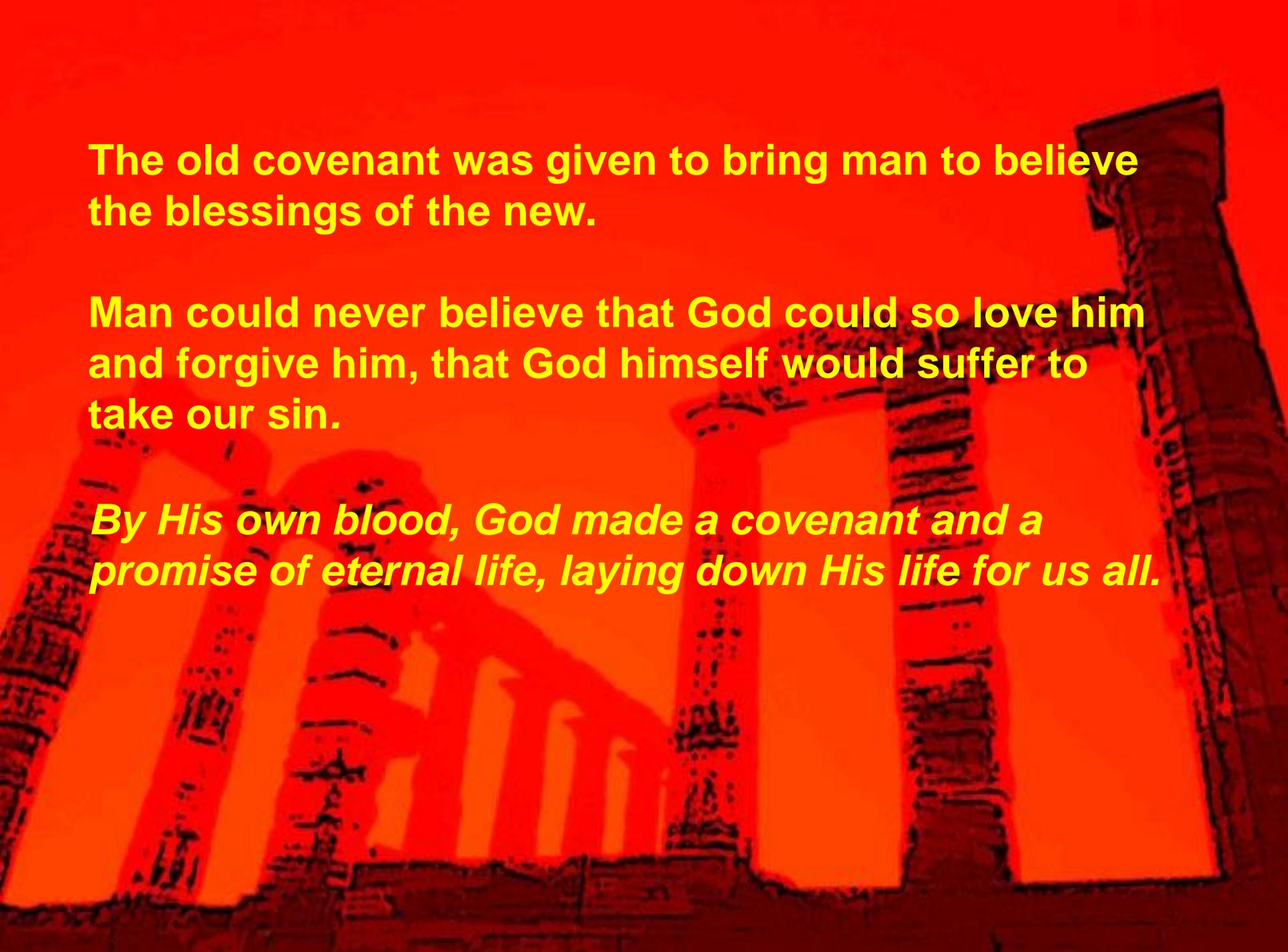
What is a covenant?

God made a covenant with Noah which He wrote in the sky.

God made a covenant with Abraham which was written in the flesh.

God made a covenant with David that he would have a royal bloodline.

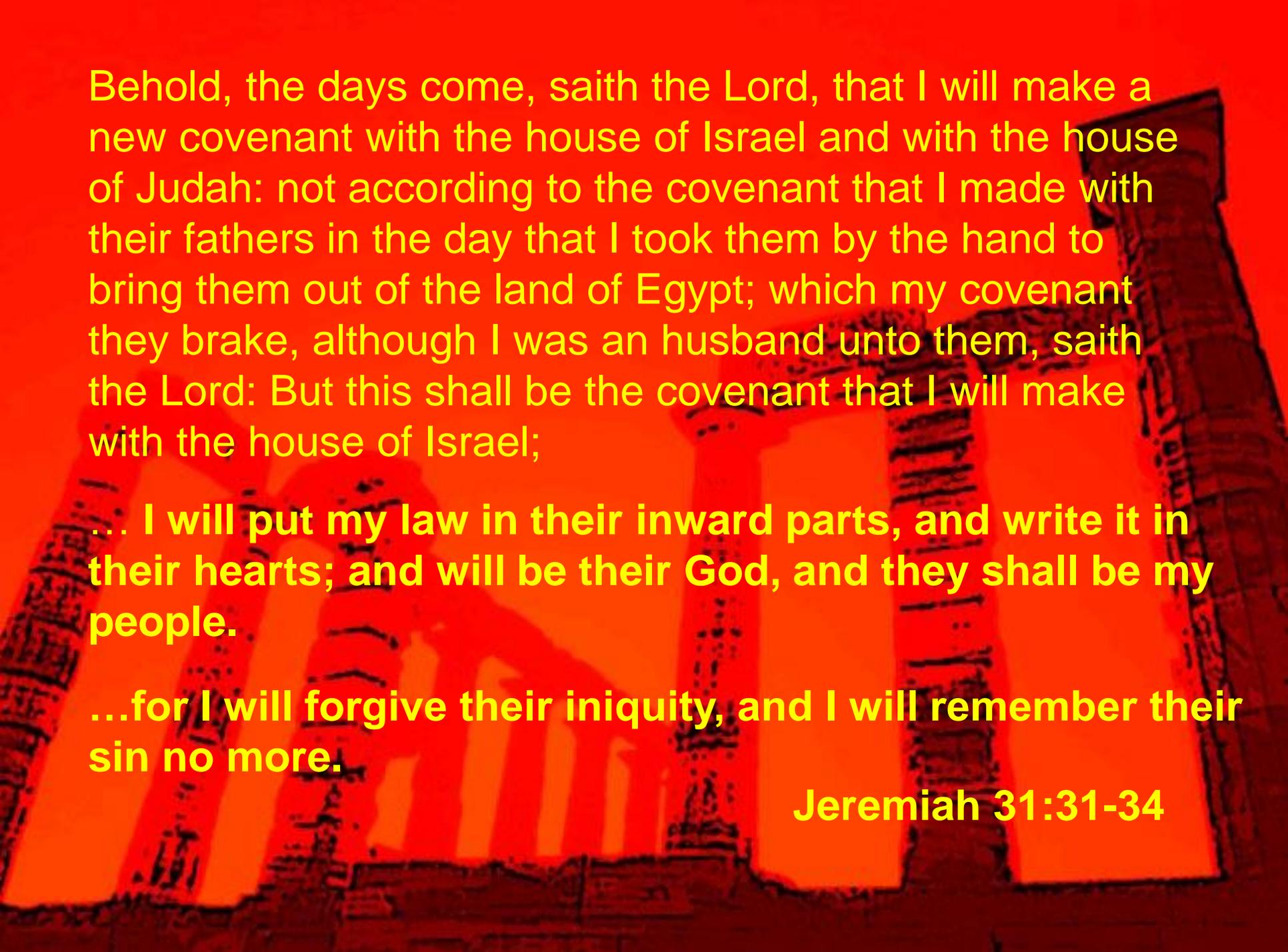
God makes a covenant with man to show how committed He is to protect, keep and preserve us from all the powers of the enemy.



The old covenant was given to bring man to believe the blessings of the new.

Man could never believe that God could so love him and forgive him, that God himself would suffer to take our sin.

By His own blood, God made a covenant and a promise of eternal life, laying down His life for us all.

The background features a stylized illustration of a stone archway. The arch is composed of several large, rectangular blocks of stone. On the pillars supporting the arch, there is Hebrew text written vertically. The text on the left pillar includes 'אֱלֹהֵינוּ' (Our God) and 'יְהוָה' (The Lord). The text on the right pillar includes 'יְהוָה' (The Lord) and 'אֱלֹהֵינוּ' (Our God). The overall scene is rendered in a dark, monochromatic style with shades of brown and black, giving it an ancient and solemn appearance.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel;

... I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:31-34



The new covenant has Jesus as its center; full of grace, love and mercy.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

Following The Law

God made a covenant with the nation of Israel giving them laws and commandments. If they kept them, He would give them financial blessing, health and long life, and lots of children. If they broke the law they would be punished.

Performance based, they would relate to God as an authority figure who would judge them if they failed.

Under the old covenant, the jews would *never* call God “Abba” which means daddy, papa, or personal father.



Jesus did not do away with the law.

The replacement for the law is not a new law, but a **person, Jesus himself!**

He says, “follow me”, do what I do, think how I think, love others like I have loved you. Moses never said “follow me”.

In the N.T. the word for covenant, was used to describe a ‘last will and testament’. The death of the testator brought the will or covenant into force.

In the O.T. the Mosaic covenant was brought into force through animal sacrifice (a blood of the covenant).



The Letter Kills But The Spirit Gives Life

Paul compared the Old Covenant as the letter which kills, with the life-giving ministry of the Spirit in the New Covenant. Many Jews considered law-keeping was the way to gain/earn salvation. It was solely a matter of human effort.

Some teach that before the coming of Jesus, men were saved by law-keeping but after his coming they were saved by grace thus making the law of Moses redundant. Paul repudiates this idea in his epistle to the Romans where he shows that in both the OT and the NT, salvation was by faith.



Two ways of thinking:

Old-heart (legal) way of thinking:

Should I do this? > **CHECK THE LAWS:**

If no law against it, I can do it!

If a law against it: resentful that I am, not allowed to do it.

New-heart (love) way of thinking:

Should I do this? > **WHAT WOULD PLEASE JESUS?**

Yes: do it and have the joy of pleasing Him.

No: don't do it and have the joy of making the sacrifice to please him.



What has changed is not the law but our relationship to the law.

Paul said I die daily ..

Having an altar of sacrifice and offering.

We were enemies, in rebellion. Now we are brought into his family. He is ours and we belong to Him. *“I am my beloved’s and my beloved’s mine.” SongSol 6:3*

The regenerating and sanctifying work of God's Spirit is about love, not keeping laws.



Outward Versus Inward

The mark of the old covenant is 'external' while the mark of the new is 'internal'. Paul stresses that the imprint of the gospel is not something which is left on the surface of a man's life. It is not cosmetic. Children sometimes stick transfers on the back of their hand or arm. It stays for a few hours and is gone.

Paul, in comparing the old and new covenants, contrasts something which was written on a tablet of stone [external] with something which was written on a person's heart [internal].



Outward Versus Inward

The existence of God's law did not guarantee the transformation of the heart. The rebellious nature of Israel showed that God's law had no life-transforming effect.

"I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers ... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Heb 8:8-10



Outward Versus Inward

In the Jeremiah passage God speaks of the superiority of the new covenant. After Pentecost, the believer would be indwelt by the Spirit, and God's law, far from being dispensed with, would begin to regulate the life of the believer.

Did God's grace operate in the O.T.? David spoke of his delight in the law of God. Of course there were men and women of faith before the coming of Jesus but their spiritual lives were incomplete. The promise of something greater was yet to come.



Death Versus Life

In Rom 3:20 Paul writes that 'through the law we become conscious of sin'. In Gal. 3:19 he asks, 'What is the purpose of the law?' to which he replies, 'it was added because of transgressions'.

The law creates a consciousness of sin and heightens that consciousness. It convinces us of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. placing us in death row and in a prison of despair. There is no peace of mind as the law ministers death to an uneasy conscience.



Living The New Covenant

The glory of the gospel lies in the fact that the ministry of the Spirit brings life into our hearts reversing the death sentence passed on us by the law. We leave death behind, clutching a free pardon in Gods hand. We are given new resources and can do what we could not do before.

We become new people and have a new life-source with new desires, new capacities, new strength, and are no longer slaves to our sinful nature.

Living the new covenant is living a new life.



Condemnation Versus Righteousness

Paul develops this contrast as he speaks of passing from condemnation to righteousness. For the Christian, condemnation is a thing of the past. Old things are passed away and all things are become new.

God will not condemn you for your past nor hold your future against you. For whom the son has set free, is free indeed.





Condemnation Versus Righteousness

How was anyone saved in the O.T. when it was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins (Heb 10:4)?

The old covenant never saved anyone. They were saved under the promise of the new covenant: the just lived and were saved by faith in the promises of God and His Covenant.

We have the blessings of righteousness which is the righteousness of Christ with which every believer is clothed.

Transient Versus Permanent

The contrast between the two covenants presents the first as transient and provisional while the second is permanent and final. The O.C. was never meant to last, it was not complete or final. If it were, then there would be no need for a second.

The O.C. was a covenant of promise, pointing forward to God's provision of a great sacrifice for sin, a great priest and a great King. It pointed forward to the blessings that would find their fulfilment in Christ, and in His death and resurrection. God has nothing greater to give.



Our Living Covenant

All of the promises of the Old Covenant find their fulfilment in Christ. The New Covenant is the covenant of fulfilment. The shadow becomes a reality.

The New Covenant is God's last word to the world. It cannot be improved upon or superseded. It has absorbed even the glory of the law, for its great glory lay in the fact that it revealed God's character.

In Christ there is a fuller and more comprehensive glory, a greater revelation of God and His grace. Christ is the focal point of living the New Covenant.



Transient Versus Permanent

In the O.T. the Spirit came from time to time upon the Lord's servants equipping them for service. In the N.T. and under the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit comes to stay. The permanent blessing of the indwelling Spirit came only after the cross and resurrection of Christ. The ministry and blessing of the indwelling Spirit is far more glorious than the occasional clothing of the Spirit which characterised the lives of the O.T. saints.



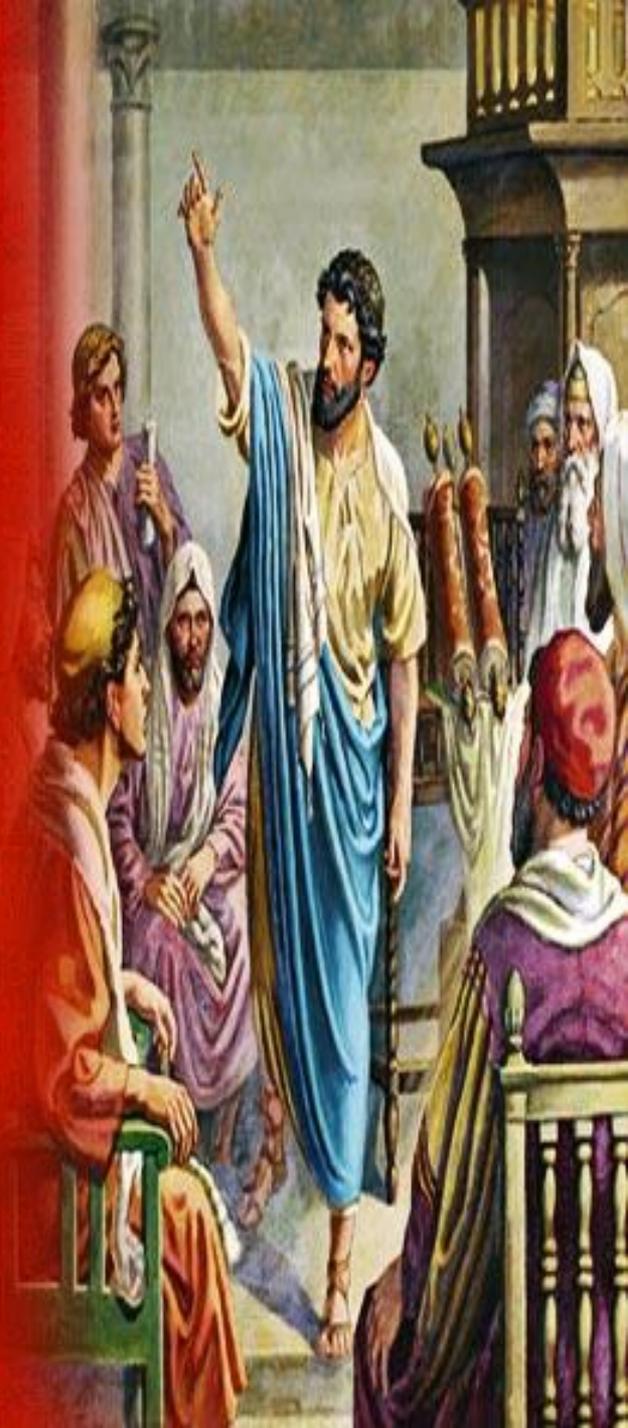
Living The New Covenant

You may feel that you are living in the new covenant, but is the new covenant living in you?

Are you afraid to speak boldly?

Jesus said he that is ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of him before my Father.

Living the new covenant is living in His love, denying ourselves, laying down our lives for one another just as Christ laid down His life for us. It's sharing in the excitement of allowing God to be God through us, not simply to us.



New Covenant Living Includes:

The opening of blinded eyes; having amazing gifts; able to be partakers of His divine nature; having life and life more abundantly; being able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think; living in His love and will for all of mankind; denying ourselves for a far more exceeding hope of glory; going beyond the cross to receiving even greater promises, and so much more.



Being Set Free

We cannot argue men into the kingdom. Man's problem with the gospel is not intellectual but moral and spiritual. Only the Spirit can bring freedom and liberty. When people turn to Christ, the scales fall from their eyes by the operation of the Holy Spirit. The chains which had kept them in bondage all their life are now broken as they are brought into the liberty of the children of God, 'Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty'



Living The New Covenant

There is an exact correlation between the Word we read and the indwelling Spirit who inspired it. As we read and respond to the operation of the Spirit in our lives, we are transformed into Christ's image and reflect His glory.

The glory the Christian is an inner glow that comes from a life that is being made into the likeness of Christ. The glory of the gospel should be the glory of Christ seen in our lives. How great a glory and hope of exceeding great promises await us!



Enjoying the New Covenant



Justified by faith

Even greater promises

Having the fruit of the Spirit

Operating with spiritual giftings

Victorious in the full armor of God

A more sure word of prophecy

Having life, and life more abundantly