

I. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS

A. Review from Ephesians 1 and 2

1. We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ.
2. We were made alive together in Christ (Ephesians 2:5).
3. We were raised with Christ (Ephesians 2:6).
4. We were made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 2:6).

B. Review of Previous Session

1. We are seated by the power of the Blood.
2. The Blood qualified me to be seated in heavenly places.
3. The Blood is not a stain. It is a continual living flow that is constantly working on my behalf to allow me to stay seated in Christ.
4. The Blood is speaking on my behalf.
 - Unlike the blood of Abel that cried out for vengeance, the Blood of Christ cries out for mercy (forgiveness and redemption) on my behalf.
5. The Blood is speaking louder than any accusation against me.

II. SEATED WITH THE ASSURANCE OF COVENANT

One of the top issues with believers being settled into their position in Christ is the lack of confidence and assurance regarding that position.

God's Kingdom doesn't function through uncertainty, unpredictability, or unreliability. The Kingdom operates by covenant. There is nothing more certain or sure than covenant. When you have a covenant, you should have settled resolve—no longer in doubt—regarding God's plan for you!

A. Assurance and Certainty

1. 1 John 5:14-15

KJV “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

2. Hebrews 11:1

AMPC “Now faith is **the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed)** of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]...”

3. Hebrews 10:22

NKJV “...let us draw near with a true heart **in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

B. Covenant Offers Me Certainty and Assurance

1. I can be *fully assured* of my faith because I am in covenant with God.

a. I can be *confident* because I am in covenant with Him, and everything that I am requesting in prayer (or demanding in authority) is based upon this covenant.

b. This is being COVENANT MINDED!

2. A covenant is a formal agreement or promise between two parties.

a. It emphasizes commitment, loyalty, and mutual responsibilities.

b. There are certain responsibilities and obligations that come with a covenant.

c. Example: the marriage covenant. There are obligations connected to this covenant between a man and a woman.

C. Israel Understood the Power of Covenant

1. They understood the commitment God had made to them through covenant—even a covenant that wasn’t perfected through the Blood of Christ as ours is.
 - a. Israel could subdue kingdoms, take down giants, bring down walls, live through plagues, famines, and wars, and always prevail because of one thing: **THEY WERE IN COVENANT WITH GOD!**
 - b. When you have a covenant with God, you **CANNOT** lose!
2. “Hesed”: the original Hebrew word most often translated as “mercies” or (in the ESV) “steadfast love” or “loving kindness”.
 - a. **2 Chronicles 20:20-22**
KJV “And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, **Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever.** And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *In this passage, the term translated as “mercy” is actually HESED in the original language. Mercy is compassion, forbearance, or pity shown to someone. Mercy is what God offers sinners. He offered mercy to us while we were yet sinners. This type of mercy isn’t what God offers to COVENANT PEOPLE! God offers HESED to covenant people.*

- **Hesed** = obligatory covenant action.
- **Hesed** (חֶסֶד) is a rich Hebrew word often translated as “mercy,” but it signifies much more. It is a deep, loyal, covenant-bound **steadfast love, faithfulness, and lovingkindness**, implying action and commitment, whereas “mercy” focuses more on compassionate relief or forbearance.
- **Hesed** is God’s unwavering, active loyalty to His promises (like to Abraham), a proactive, relational love that goes beyond just feeling pity. While English

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translations use “mercy,” **hesed** encompasses loyalty, grace, and covenant faithfulness, representing love in action.

- **Hesed** is covenant loyalty—love bound by promise.
- b. When Israel sang “His mercies endureth forever”, they were actually singing “His HESED endureth forever... His obligatory, covenant action endureth forever”. They were stirring themselves up in faith to know WE ARE IN COVENANT.
 - God obligated Himself to Israel in covenant.
 - God obligated Himself through every promise.
 - He obligated Himself to be their shield, their help, their defense, and their strength.
 - They were declaring His obligatory goodness and action on their behalf.
 - c. Because of this OBLIGATORY COVENANT ACTION, Israel could face the enemy with a song and never draw a sword!
3. Hesed defeated Goliath.
- a. **1 Samuel 17:26**
KJV “And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”
 - b. In other words, David was saying:
 - “**Who is this man that has no covenant?** God isn’t obligated to him—he has no HESED!”
 - “Who is this man who has no *obligatory covenant* with God that he should stand defying and mocking the army of Israel that has a covenant with God almighty, a covenant in which God has *already obligated Himself to our victory?*”
 - c. Notice David’s certainty and assurance.
 - Covenant gives you assurance.
 - David was assured of his victory over Goliath because he knew of God’s HESED—His obligation to Israel through covenant.

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4. Psalm 89 (NKJV)—A Psalm of God’s Faithfulness

- a. **Vs. 1** “I will sing of the **mercies** of the Lord forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”
 - In other words: *“I will sing the obligatory actions of the Lord forever.”*
- b. **Vs. 2** “For I have said, ‘Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens.’”
 - Notice that when the writer speaks of mercy, he is also including faithfulness.
 - The “mercy” (or hesed) that Israel so often spoke or sang of included God’s FAITHFULNESS to the covenant.
- c. **Vs. 3-5** “I have **made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn** to My servant David: ‘**Your seed I will establish forever**, And build up your throne to all generations.’ *Selah* And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; **Your faithfulness** also in the assembly of the saints.”
- d. **Vs. 24** “But My faithfulness and My mercy *shall be* with him, And in My name his horn shall be exalted.”
- e. **Vs. 28** “My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My covenant shall stand firm with him. His seed also I will make *to endure* forever, And his throne as the days of heaven.”
- f. **Vs. 33-37** “Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, **Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.** Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; It shall be established forever like the moon, Even *like* the faithful witness in the sky.”
 - Notice the absolute declarations regarding this type of mercy—HESED.
 - God is obligating Himself through His Word to perform the promises of the covenant to David and his seed forever.

5. Other passages:

- a. **Psalm 103:10-18**
- b. **Psalm 23**
- c. **Lamentations 3:22-23**

D. Our Better Covenant

1. Hebrews 8:6

NKJV “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises...”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *If Israel had such assurance of a covenant with God based upon the blood of animals, HOW MUCH MORE ASSURANCE should we have with a covenant that is founded upon the precious, sinless Blood of Jesus?*

- a. Just as God obligated Himself to Israel through Covenant, He has obligated Himself to us through covenant—even MORE SO!
- b. Therefore, I can be confident of victory in everything He has promised because of His faithfulness to His covenant with me in Christ.
 - I don’t have to worry that God will change His mind toward me.
 - I don’t have to fear the future.
 - God obligated Himself to me—in Christ.
 - The covenant is SURE.

E. The Covenant of Love

1. Too many people live in fear, uncertain of their future, saying things like: “*I sure hope I make it*” or “*I sure hope God will accept me.*” **No certainty!**

a. 1 John 4:18

KJV “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love...”

AMPC “There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors *and* expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love’s complete perfection]...”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Many read this passage as meaning our love walk for others. The actual meaning is God’s love for me. If my relationship with God is still filled with torment and uncertainty of my spiritual position, it is because I have not come to maturity in accepting*

His love for me! I am still living in uncertainty regarding His love for me. Mature love is to understand that God has OBLIGATED HIMSELF to me by HIS LOVE.

b. John 3:16

NKJV “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

c. John 1:12

KJV “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name...”

2. My position is to believe the love!

a. 1 John 4:16

NKJV “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him”

AMP “We have come to know [by personal observation and experience], and have believed [with deep, consistent faith] the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides *continually* in him.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *This faithful, committed, and obligated LOVE keeps me in my seat.*