

I. PART 1: UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE AS GOD'S COVENANT

It is possible to read the Bible and honor it as God's Word and still not recognize it as God's Covenant. Everything changes when you view the Bible as His covenant.

A. What is a Covenant?

1. It is more than teachings, principles, and stories.
2. A covenant is a binding agreement established by God Himself.

B. Reading the Bible as God's Word

1. When you read the Bible as His Word:
 - a. You learn truth.
 - b. You learn about God's character.
 - c. You receive instruction and correction.
 - d. You learn historical characters and events.
 - e. You learn about context and Bible culture.

C. Reading the Bible as God's Covenant

1. When you read the Bible as a covenant, this emphasizes God's Word as His LEGALLY established relationship with His people through Jesus Christ.
2. Reading the Bible as a covenant you see:
 - a. What God has accomplished in Christ.
 - b. What God has promised.
 - c. Your inheritance in Christ.
 - d. Your covenant rights and responsibilities.
 - e. The certainty that God will fulfill what He has promised.

D. Scriptures:

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."

THE HELP 2

Session 2: God's Covenant of Help

Pastor Dale Campbell

HCSB "But Jesus has now obtained a superior ministry, and to that degree He is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been **legally enacted** on better promises."

CEV "Now Christ has been appointed to serve as a priest in a much better way, and he has given us **much assurance** of a better agreement."

GWT "Jesus has been given a priestly work that is superior to the Levitical priests' work. He also brings a better promise from God that is based on **better guarantees**."

PASTOR'S NOTE: Notice the **legal terms** and the **assurance**. Covenant is a legal agreement. Covenant produces assurance. The reason why so many people pray with no assurance is because they have no revelation of covenant.

2. Luke 22:20

NKJV "Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.'"

PASTOR'S NOTE: Jesus didn't merely provide salvation and forgiveness. He secured them through covenant. If salvation had not been established by covenant, we could never have absolute assurance of it. Because it is a covenant, we can rest with confidence that our salvation is certain, secure, and unchanging.

3. Psalm 89:34

KJV "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

CEV "I won't break my agreement or go back on my word."

GW "I will not dishonor my promise or alter my own agreement."

4. Numbers 23:19-20

NKJV "God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? Behold, I have received *a command* to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it."

PASTOR'S NOTE: *Balaam was attempting to curse what God had blessed. Once God had blessed Israel through covenant, no one could reverse the blessing. This speaks to us regarding the strength and reliability of His covenant.*

E. The Difference

READING THE BIBLE	READING THE COVENANT
What God has said	What God has promised
Emphasizes instruction	Emphasis on relationship and inheritance
Builds knowledge	Builds confidence and assurance
Reveals God's will	Reveals our standing and privileges in Him
Leads to obedience	Leads to faith and confident expectation

PASTOR'S NOTE: *When I began viewing the Word of God as His covenant, everything changed. It transformed the way I read Scripture, the way I believed, and the way I prayed. Instead of seeing the Bible as merely God's words, I began seeing it as His binding covenant with me through Jesus Christ. Where I had once seen little or no results, I now experience God's faithful answers with consistency.*

II. PART 2: UNDERSTANDING HOW TO RELY ON MY COVENANT HELP

A. My Covenant is Established in Jesus

1. My covenant with God is established in and with Jesus, not my personal performance.

2. There is NO CONDEMNATION when I am rooted in Him and His righteousness.

B. Every Promise of God is Backed by His Covenant

1. I have HIS WORD on every condition or circumstance.
 - a. See His Word as His sworn oath!
2. Covenant gives me confidence.
 - a. **1 John 5:14**
NKJV "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."
3. Covenant produces expectation.
 - a. I do not pray hoping to receive. I pray expecting to receive.
 - b. Covenant allowed Abraham to be FULLY PERSUADED that what God had promised, He would perform.
4. When I read the Word as covenant:
 - a. I stop striving and start trusting.
 - b. I stop doubting and start expecting.
 - c. I stop relying on myself and depend completely on my union in Christ.
 - d. I stop seeing the promises as possibilities and begin seeing them as covenant realities.

III. PART 3: MAKING COVENANT DEMANDS

One of the differences in understanding how covenant works is the process of demanding versus requesting.

A. Definitions of "Demand"

1. To ask for something insistently
2. To require as necessary
3. To claim something as a legal right

4. To call for or expect

PASTOR'S NOTE: *We never "demand" God do anything in the sense of FORCING Him to move. However, we can make "covenant demands". This is the process of making a rightful claim, petitioning with confidence, or requiring what is legally due.*

B. Demanding is Rooted in Personal Desire

1. Making a **covenant demand** is standing on God's promises through Christ and receiving by faith what He has already declared to be mine.
 - a. A covenant demand is faith expressing confidence in God's covenant rather than uncertainty about God's willingness.

2. A practical illustration: healing
 - a. A person making a general request might pray:
 - *"Lord, if it is Your will, please heal me."*
 - b. A person making a covenant demand might pray:
 - *"Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. According to Your covenant, Christ bore my sicknesses and carried my pains (Isaiah 53:4–5; Matthew 8:16–17). By His stripes I was healed (1 Peter 2:24). Healing belongs to me because of the blood of Jesus, not because of my goodness. **Therefore, I receive what You have already provided in the covenant.** I command this sickness to leave my body in Jesus' name, and I thank You that Your covenant cannot fail."*
 - c. Notice the difference:
 - You are not demanding something new from God.
 - You are laying claim to what He has already covenanted to give.

IV. CLOSING THOUGHT

We are helped through the confident assurance that we have in God's covenant. Our confidence rests on God's faithfulness and His unchanging promises. Because we are in covenant, we can boldly declare His Word and rest assured that we have His help.