

BUILDING A FAITH THAT STICKS IN 2026
First Baptist Church and The Lakefront Church - Venice, Florida
One Church - Two Locations December 28, 2025

Instead of making a resolution that lasts about as long as our promise to lose weight, let us make or renew our covenant with God.

But before we consider making or renewing our covenant with God, let's consider His covenant with us.

God's promises are His covenant with us.

A. God's Covenant with Noah

Genesis 6:5-9 (CSB) *The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸Noah, however, found favor with the LORD... Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.*

Genesis 9:8-9,11 (ESV) *Then God said to Noah and his sons with him, ⁹"Understand that I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,...¹¹I establish my covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by floodwaters; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."*

- How does a person know they are walking with God?

1. Walking With God Is Relational, not Religious.

Amos 3:3 (CSB) *Can two walk together without agreeing to meet?*

2. Walking Implies Companionship Companionship includes:

A. Appreciation - Enter His gates with Thanksgiving
Who you appreciate, you value; who you value, you love.

B. Communication

- (1) We listen. Read God's Word.

Psalms 119:11 (CSB) *I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.*

(2) We talk. Pray to God.

Philippians 4:6-7 (CSB) *Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

C. Devotion

Genesis 6:15 (CSB) *This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. [With three decks!]*

...¹⁷"Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ...²²And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him. ...

Genesis 8:18-19 (CSB) *So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, came out. ¹⁹All the animals, all the creatures that crawl, and all the flying creatures—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark by their families.*

- Devotion to God is because of His blessings, not to get them.

Matthew 5:45b (NLT) *For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.*

Joshua 1:7-8 (CSB) *Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. ⁸This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.*

Malachi 3:10-12 (NLT) *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! ¹¹Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.*

- Devotion is evidence, not the cause.

1. Appreciation - Thanking God
2. Communication - Listening: Reading His Word and Talking: Prayer
3. Devotion - Believing God - Doing what He says.