

PROMISES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW COVENANT

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A covenant is **an agreement** between two parties with **mutual responsibilities for both**.

Marriage is one such covenant, *Mal 2:14*. Both the Bride and Groom Make a covenant with one another, and promise, or vow, to love and care for one another through good times and through hard times, for as long as they live.

There are many covenants in the Word, which were made, between two equal parties, e.g.

David and Jonathan	<i>1Sam 18:1-4.</i>
Isaac and Abimelech	<i>Gen 26:26-31.</i>
Abraham and Abimelech	<i>Gen 21:25-32.</i>
Jacob and Laban	<i>Gen 31:43-55.</i>

When a covenant was made, (the Hebrew is **Karath** and means **to cut**, see *Jer 34:18*),
sacrifices were offered *Gen 31:54, Ps 50:5, Jer 34:18,*
promises were made *Gen 31:52,*
a pillar or heap of stones was raised up as a memorial, *Gen 31:45-48,*
gifts were exchanged *1Sam 18:4,*
a meal was eaten together *Gen 31:46,*
the **parties walked between** the cut halves of the sacrifice, *Jer 34:18,*
they gave **names to the place** of covenant, *Gen 31:47, Gen 26:33,*
and they **called on the Name of the Lord** to be witness, *Gen 31:53.*

But many of the covenants of the Word are not made between two equals, but between the Superior – God, and the inferior – man. In this case man has the option of accepting the terms of the covenant agreement, or rejecting them but he has no power to change them.

There are **seven such covenants** in the Word made between God and man. These are described in Pastors' Notes No 126.

Today our focus is on the **New Covenant in Jesus' Blood**. *Lk 22:20, 1Cor 11:25, Jer 31:33-36, Heb 8:10-12, 1Cor 5:7.*

The sacrifice is Jesus Christ Himself, God our Saviour, come in human flesh, to offer Himself as a full payment price for our sins, *1Pet 2:24, 1Cor 15:3,* and to redeem us back to God, *1Pet 1:18,19, Eph 1:7, Col 1:13,14.*

The promises, from God to any man, woman, boy or girl, who chooses to accept the terms of the covenant, are the following:

1. **complete forgiveness** of all sins;
2. **right standing** before God;
3. **deliverance** from the power of the old sinful nature;
4. **deliverance** from the control of satan and this world;
5. **acceptance** by God;
6. the blessing and **fulness of the Holy Spirit**;
7. **the fulness of the life of Christ within**, *Gal 2:20, Col 2:9,10, Jn 1:16;*

8. the **complete provision by God to meet every need**: physical, material, mental, spiritual, financial, security and life related. *2Pet 1:3,4, Eph 1:3, Phil 4:19, Ps 84:11, Ps 34:10, Ps 25:12,13, Ps 23:1, Jn 10:10.*

Now what are the requirements and conditions for us, of being a party to this New Covenant, and of receiving all the covenant promises?

It is, briefly, **full unconditional surrender** of all we are, and all we have, to God, **to do His will in all things**. *1Cor 10:31, Lk 9:23, Mat 6:33, Mat 7:21, Lk 6:46.* It starts with **repentance**, *Ac 2:38*, which is turning around from going our own way to serve and follow the Lord. Together with repentance there is **faith**, *Mk 1:15*, which is **believing** in Jesus Christ, and **receiving** Him into one's life as Lord and Saviour, *1Jn 3:23, Jn 3:16, Jn 1:12.*

This is followed by **water baptism** in which we personally identify with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection, *Rom 6:3,4*. This is death to the old life of self, and rising to a new life in Christ.

The Holy Spirit is at work in us in all these things, giving us the life and ability of God, to know Him, to follow Him and to do His will, *Jn 3:3-8.*

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is when the Holy Spirit comes down upon us for service, in the power of the Holy Spirit, *Ac 1:4,8, Ac 2:1-47*, so that we can win the lost and build the church world wide.

Finally, becoming a Christian **is not** so that we can receive all heaven's blessings through Christ and continue to live to please self and go our own way. There are conditions and requirements. **It is a radical change in which we become a lover of God to serve and please Him all our days.** Amen.