

GOD'S COVENANT

We can know that God is willing to have a personal relationship with us and to give us a new life only because he has told us so. He made many promises to us, and we can rely on the promises of God. He has all power in heaven and on earth, and he does not lie. He can do what he says and he will. But he will not force these things on us. We have to claim what he is offering. We have to believe what he says and receive from him what he wants to give. Many of the Scripture passages are promises. We can claim these promises and hold God to them. We can base our lives upon them.

YOUR COVENANT

God's gift of new life with him is free, absolutely free. We cannot earn it or deserve it in any way. Yet, we have to receive what he is offering. We have to come to him and reach out to him. A covenant is an agreement. When we enter into a covenant with someone, we make an agreement with them. We can enter into a covenant with God because he has already offered a covenant to us. He has made us a promise that we can accept and claim. If you make a covenant with God now for the period of the next seven weeks, you will find that you will have a new life with God at the end of that time.

God promises in the Scriptures we have reflected on this week, that if we turn to him and reach out for what he has to offer, he will give it to us. The covenant you should make with God is simply a covenant to turn to him, to listen to him, and to let other Christians help you.

Perhaps you already know God and have experienced his love. Perhaps what you are looking for is a deeper relationship with him, a fullness of life in his Spirit. If you enter into a covenant with him now in the same way and agree to seek from him what he is offering, he will give you that deeper life with him. You are invited to do those things which will allow God to give you the gift he has for you. For everyone in the seminars, these things are:

- 1) To attend and participate in The Life in the Spirit Seminars each week, trying not to miss any session.
- 2) To set aside at least 15 minutes a day for prayer and study, meditating on the words of life in these reflections and studying the passages.
- 3) To share with others in the seminars each week how you are growing and what difficulties you are having.
- 4) Spend time with the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community as a way of discovering how to live a new life in the Spirit.

You are invited to make a covenant with God through the following prayer:

Father, I want to find a new relationship with you and the new life you are promising. I want to know you more fully. I want to have you change my life and give me the power to live in a better way. To allow you to do this, I seek your grace to attend The Life in the Spirit Seminars each week, to set aside 15 minutes each day to connect with You, to share with the others in the seminar how I am growing and what difficulties I am experiencing, and to spend time with the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community to experience how others live a life in the Spirit. I long for your promises to be fulfilled in my life.

IF YOU STRUGGLE

Remember that God loves you and wants you to be with Him even more than you want Him. He is not legalistic with us. If something happens so that you cannot fulfill your commitment one day, He will not hold it against us. If we neglect what we have promised, we can ask his forgiveness. and He will forgive us. He loves us and does not want anything to be a barrier between us and Him. Seek His grace to be about the commitment to connect with Him more deeply – He will respond. Remember this two way covenant is all about experiencing the power of a committed, loving, relationship with God.