

# INSIGHTS

## THE COVENANT *of* GRACE



BY DR. DENNIS BURKE

Throughout the centuries of human history, God has remained committed to lifting His people out of the limits of their own ways and into the limitlessness of His great ability — and the way He joins Himself with His people is through *covenant*. A covenant joins two parties together, bringing the strengths and weaknesses of each party into the life and situation of the other.

When a person enters the Kingdom of God through simple faith and the salvation purchased by Jesus Christ, that person also embraces the covenant foundation on which this Kingdom operates. As the Body of Christ comes to better understand the power of this covenant life with God, believers will begin to step *out of* the patterns of weakness and defeat they have known for so long and *into* the victories Jesus obtained for them.

### The Glory of the New Covenant

The Old Covenant depended on the Israelites' obedience to the laws and commands of God. The people's faith was in God, who made those laws. The covenant they had with Him gave them the right to claim Him as their covenant-keeping God.

In Deuteronomy 7:9, Moses told the people, "Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments."

Because of the covenant God had with His people, He revealed not only who He is to them, but also how firm His commitment was *to* them. In Isaiah 54:10, He said, "For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed...." This is the amazing truth God reveals in this scripture: His covenant kindness and mercy toward His people is more settled and established than the high mountain ranges of this earth!



*The power of this covenant is no less than the power of the blood by which it was established."*

In Jeremiah 32:40, God spoke of the New Covenant that would come: "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me." Again, in Ezekiel 36:26 and 27, God looked ahead to this New Covenant:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

God's covenant would ultimately cause His influence and presence to move from dwelling *among* His people to dwelling *within* them.

The Old Covenant was established on the earth by the blood of bulls and goats. The New Covenant was established in Heaven and on earth forever by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The power of this covenant is no less than the power of the blood by which it was established. Under this New Covenant, obedience in faith remains vital. However, now one's faith springs from a heart that delights in obedience and has the power to be obedient.

### **The Nature of God's Grace**

God gives His greatness and His grace to all who come to Him in simple faith. His covenant is a covenant of grace. He is a God of grace, and He imparts grace to all who have entered into His covenant. The word "grace" is primarily used in two different ways. First, it is central to God's heart attitude that moves Him toward us. Because of His grace, God is willing to be involved with you and me. He gives His love and resources freely, not on the basis of our performance. That love is not swayed by what we do or don't do. He loves us regardless of our actions, just because we are His children.

Second, grace is the active power within our hearts as believers that works in us and empowers us to do God's will. If ever man had a need, it is for grace from God. From the most talented person to the one who feels least qualified, people desperately need God's grace.

### **God's Grace — All You Need**

The natural mind wants to feel self-sufficient, capable of handling anything. But the truth is, each of us is inadequate in many areas of life. The successful businessman may lack the skills to influence his family and develop a warm and loving home. A wife may be a good homemaker, yet come short of

the spiritual strength needed for a stable household. Even good people who are faithful to their church can fail miserably at living in the power of the Holy Spirit as God's Word teaches.

Jesus Christ has uncovered the path that leads to the very strength and ability of God, available to empower you for any task set before you. That path is found in the covenant of grace. God has made Himself completely accessible, ever ready to supply you with all the ability you need to do His will and enjoy His blessings. His grace can enable you to accomplish in life the things He demands in His Word. He has longed to remove from you the debasing limitations of sin and sensuality and to open up to you the infinite riches of His grace.

Through sin, Satan has kept people bound inside the realm of their flesh and their own carnal reasoning. The continual bombardment of ideas and attitudes from a world governed by sin presses to penetrate each person's life. No one can escape the attempted invasion of external worldly influences into his or her heart, mind, and emotions. But Jesus came to deliver you from the limits of sin and of this lost world! He came to deposit His Spirit within to influence and lead you. Now the Bible declares, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised

Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Romans 8:11).

God has placed within you the seeds of His Kingdom and has made you alive in your inner man, or your spirit. Now you can live from the inside out. You are free to affect the conditions and environment around you with the power of His Word that has found its home within your heart!

### **All of God's Inheritance Is Yours**

When God entered into a covenant with Abraham, the father of faith, He set in motion the events that would bring Jesus Christ to the earth and, ultimately, to purchase the redemption of all mankind. As a result, you have been given the privilege of living in fellowship with the Almighty God and walking in the grace He continually provides.

This covenant of grace is not like the Law of the Old Covenant. All the benefits of *this* covenant are received by faith — they cannot be earned or merited. It is by faith and faith alone that you enter this covenant with God, as confirmed by the Apostle Paul: "For by grace have you been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Salvation is more than going to Heaven after you die. The inheritance of Jesus became yours to claim after His death on the Cross — not after *your* death. This means that all of His inheritance is yours *now*.

Before the sacrifice of Jesus, the people looked ahead to the promise of God that

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was to come. Now we look  
back to the promise that  
was established for us. In  
the same way, faith does  
not look at the blessing that  
will come one day. It sees  
the Word of God that has

been given and established  
through Jesus. The promises  
are linked to our covenant,  
and they belong to us *now*.

### Mix Faith with God's Promise

Salvation is wholeness



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### EDMONTON, AB CANADA | OCTOBER 4-5

Living Word Christian Centre | 5315-91 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6E6E2 | 780-462-3737

### EDINBURG, TX | OCTOBER 26

World Harvest Family Church | 1000 Trooper Moises  
Sanchez Blvd | Edinburg, TX 78541 | 956-383-8967

### WINKLER, MB CANADA | NOVEMBER 2

Heritage of Faith Christian Center | 736 Main Street  
Winkler, MB R6W4A8 | 204-331-4182

### MAYSVILLE, KY | NOVEMBER 9

Victory Christian Center | 719 US 62  
Maysville, KY 41056 | 606-759-7211

### MCKINNEY, TX | NOVEMBER 23

Genesis Church | 5780 Virginia Parkway  
McKinney, TX 75071 | 972-562-9333

### HESPERIA, CA | DECEMBER 7-9

Oasis of Faith Christian Center | 17250 Lemon Street  
Hesperia, CA 92345 | 760-948-0745

— spirit, soul, and body.  
Your wholeness is received  
through faith, but that  
faith comes by the grace of  
God at work within you.  
According to Hebrews 4,  
there is a promise of rest in  
God that releases His power  
when we diligently trust in  
His power and not our own.  
It is faith in the deposit of  
grace and divine ability that  
He has placed within our  
inner man.

Therefore, since a prom-  
ise remains of enter-  
ing His rest, let us fear  
lest any of you seem to  
have come short of it....  
There remains therefore  
a rest for the people of  
God. For he who has  
entered His rest has  
himself also ceased from  
his works as God did  
from His. Let us there-  
fore be diligent to enter  
that rest, lest anyone fall

according to the same  
example of disobedience  
(Hebrews 4:1,9-11).

Disobedience kept the  
Israelites from entering the  
territory promised to them.  
Their example of unbelief  
demonstrates how faith  
must be mixed with the  
promise of God to obtain  
the results He has offered.  
Hebrews 4:3 presents a  
powerful truth:

For we who have  
believed do enter that  
rest, as He has said: "So  
I swore in My wrath,  
"They shall not enter My  
rest," although the works  
were finished from the  
foundation of the world.

Notice what this verse  
says: *The works were finished!*  
Everything the Israelites  
needed to possess their  
Promised Land had already  
been provided before they

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ever faced the wilderness or the enemies who lived in the land. God had already completed the necessary works for His people to enter the land He had promised them peacefully and at rest. The work for the Israelites' victory and for *your* victory was completed before the world was established. God's last day of work was Adam's first day of life!

### Enter into His Rest

God's work in the physical world was finished at creation. His work in the spiritual world was finished through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. You have been created to live in God's rest. He has created everything for you. The work was God's part — entering into His rest is your part. You must be diligent to make sure your efforts are focused on entering into His rest, not on continuing in your own works or strength.

You are to live by grace, not by your own works and ambition.



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The works were finished at the foundation of the world. Everything must now be founded upon the work God has already completed and upon our diligence to enter into His rest.

It all begins with a covenant — the covenant of grace.

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This is an excerpt from Dennis' book, *Grace — Power Beyond Your Ability*.



## We all need God's grace.

It empowers you to do what you cannot do alone and gives strength to overcome every challenge. Through Jesus, you have access to the throne of grace—enter by faith, receive His heart, and flourish in His calling with peace and purpose.



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