

## ENJOYING ALL GOD HAS TO GIVE YOU The New Covenant Does Not Condemn

Sometimes people don't want to think about God because they feel God is angry with them. Most people also don't want to contemplate unworthiness, try to live within a list of rules or try to plan a life of perfection. They basically know they would fail miserably and never live up to those really high expectations. So they figure, "Why bother trying?"

The good news is that God loves us and wants to rescue us. He wants us to love Him the best way we can. It's pretty simple, really. He wants to bless us and give us wonderful things! God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins and pay the total punishment for all of our sins past, present and future. That's pretty wonderful! We no longer have to have guilt, shame or carry a heavy burden of unworthiness. Jesus paid the debt for it all on the cross – no matter how horrible we think we have lived or are living or may be living tomorrow.

All we have to do is ask for forgiveness, believe Jesus died on the cross and ask Him to come into our lives! From that point forward, we are righteous in God's eyes – washed white as snow! When God looks at us He sees us as perfected through His Son's death, burial and resurrection! We are not perfect in all we say or do, but we are perfected through Christ and we are able to have a close relationship with God! He wants to give us what we ask for. He wants to give us the Holy Spirit to actually live within us - as one who provides words of prophecy, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, speaking or interpretation of tongues, faith or belief, working of miracles and gifts of healing. This is the New Covenant between our Father in Heaven and each one of us!

God does not say, do this list of good things and you will earn my love and He doesn't say He's keeping score to see how we do each day. He says accept my gift to you – by grace you are saved. Saved for eternity from hell and saved from separation from God. So He loves us unconditionally after we are saved – no one may pluck us from His hand. What a comfort that is!

We didn't earn it and we can't mess it up!  
It is a gift from God.

Not only did Christ pay our sin debt in full, He freed us from the curse under the law of the Old Covenant. Under the curse in the law of Moses, we had to live according to the ten commandments and hardly anyone could do that. People would always break at least one of those commandments and thus be under the curse, because God cannot tolerate any type of sin. The curse was pain and sickness, poverty and failure. Under the Old Covenant, only a sacrifice could take sin from people and leave them absolved of guilt and blessed by God.

What does this mean? Jesus became our sacrifice and absorbed our pain, sickness, poverty and failure at the cross. We became His health, prosperity and success!

A lot of churches still teach as though we are under the Old Covenant which was based on obedience to have blessing from God. Old Covenant teachers encourage us to think we must earn right living with God and that we must obey the ten commandments or we are living as sinners who should feel guilt and will have no blessings. Any type of thinking like this invalidates the gift from God – the grace of our Father – who sacrificed His own Son for us! Jesus was the lamb – the sacrificial lamb who bore our sin, sickness, poverty and failure. Christ is the only atonement for our sins. No more baggage must we carry around, feeling guilt, shame and unworthiness or sadness. We should be extremely happy knowing we have access to our Father in heaven!

Halleluiah! This is a wonderful thing! We believe God is and we believe He is one who rewards the faithful and we believe He wants to bless us. All we have to do is claim the blessings from our Father. Is there anything about this, so far, that is hard to understand or hard to do? Not really! Because of how we have been taught most of our lives in this world, we have a hard time understanding faith – believing before we are seeing... We have the right to receive blessings from God by simply saying, “in the name of Jesus I need.....” We can ask one time – not the same thing repeatedly, as if God did not hear you the first time. Ask once, believe you have it before you see it – this is faith. The parts of a faithful life that others can witness bring glory to God! Accept God’s Word, speak it aloud and act on it. This is faith in action.

As we go through life and build our faith, we naturally want to do what pleases God. It isn’t hard. We want to grow in faith, have hope for the future and love our neighbors. We want to enjoy the blessings God hands out freely! God is good!

2Co 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Ro 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Mt 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Ps 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in

him.

Ro 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

Mt 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Mk 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Mk 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mk 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

Jas 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Mt 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Gal 3:12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

Gal 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Mt 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses.

Lk 12:37 Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Lk 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants.

Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Ro 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Ro 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.