

"The Blood"

You are about to uncover one of the most valuable discoveries that you could ever find in God's Word - the reality of your covenant with God. This revelation will touch every aspect of your life. It will help you receive your healing. It will give you confidence that God will meet your financial needs. It will strengthen your marriage and family relationships. And finally, it will bring peace to your mind and joy to your soul.

However, before we actually create our personal "Blood Covenant," let's study critical background information regarding biblical covenant practices, covenant faith and covenant love.

BLOOD COVENANT PRACTICES

Because God is in Covenant with us, He will keep His Word even if He has to swear to His own hurt. A blood covenant demands absolute, unwavering loyalty. Rediscovering the meaning of a covenant relationship will turn the tide of Western civilization.

To seize the real meaning of the word covenant, you need more than just a definition. You need a revelation from Almighty God! The definition will only tell you what a covenant is. <u>A revelation of your covenant with God will cause you to stand steadfast against the devil when he comes and tries to destroy you.</u> The mere definition does not have the power to uphold you against the storms of life, but the revelation of a covenant relationship will.

Webster's Dictionary defines the word covenant as "a usually formal solemn, and binding agreement; compact, a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action." These definitions could very well describe our modern use of the term contract.

Contracts are very familiar to us. However, we usually think nothing of trying to get released from the responsibility of contracts all of the time. The true covenant relationship is not so. Some man-made covenants are made to last up to eight generations. God's covenant is designed to last to a thousand generations.

When man sinned in the Garden of Eden, God didn't <u>replace</u> him, He <u>redeemed</u> him. That commitment eventually restored the relationship between man and God through the plan of redemption. Becoming covenantminded will raise the level of our commitment to God's level and erase the word failure from our vocabulary. When we start keeping our commitments, even if it means our own hurt, we securely close the door on the devil. We can then become totally committed to restoring broken relationships and refuse to allow Satan to steal, kill or destroy our precious families and loveones. The devil was powerless to destroy God's relationship with man because His integrity left no room for evil to enter in and bring corruption. The devil will be powerless in our life when our integrity matches God's integrity. And a revelation of the strength of a covenant relationship is the only thing that can lift us to a level of God's integrity and commitment. That's what this study is all about.

The Bible is a book of covenants; therefore, covenant terminology is threaded all the way through it from Genesis to Revelation. Our study will begin with customary covenant practices so that you will be able to recognize these statements. Your ultimate goal through studying this material is to become covenant-minded. This will, in turn, strengthen your commitments to your family and business associates. But most importantly, it will strengthen your faith in God.

Blood covenants are recorded in all ancient civilizations. Covenant agreements were entered into to bind two tribes together. The grounds for this union were always based on their differences, not their similarities.

You will notice that this is exactly the opposite of man's natural tendency apart from covenant relationship. <u>Racism and denominationalism</u>, which are in direct opposition to the purpose of covenant agreements, are perfect examples. These beliefs cause a separation between those who are different either because of skin color or religious preferences. They separate those who are different and bind those together who are similar. The problem with this is that you not only have the same strengths, you have the same weaknesses. It therefore leaves nothing to protect you from your weaknesses.

Since the covenant agreement was entered based on differences and not similarities, their strengths and weaknesses balances each other out. This union made both tribes strong.

Lengthy discussions were made in order to produce agreement and harmony. During these negotiations, the two families agreed to each party's responsibilities in the union. They agreed upon a blessing for keeping the terms as well as a curse for breaking them. The fear of the curse and desire to benefit from the blessing kept the parties in line.

Then each family chose a representative. The representative was one who exemplified the very character of the family. If the family were strong warriors, the representative was the greatest and most highly skilled warrior of them all. If the family was business-minded, the representative was the shrewdest businessperson in the family. The representative was always someone with whom the whole family could identify. He was also someone with whom outsiders identified the family. (In our covenant with God, Jesus is our representative. As a born-again believer, you have taken on His nature and character. Thus, you are identified as a Christian or "little Christ.")

Next, the tribes chose a covenant site. It was a place where all the family members could gather around to watch the covenant rites take place.

After the site was chosen, the sacrificial animals were selected. They were most often large animals who would shed a great deal of blood when they were slaughtered. The animals were cut from the back of the neck down the backbone. The two halves fell to the ground, laying opposite of each other. Their blood spilled on the ground between the two halves, and the alley between them was customarily called the walkway of blood.

As the covenant ceremony began, each representative removed his coat and exchanged it with the other representative. The coat represented the strength and authority of each family. By exchanging coats, they symbolically exchanged authority. Then, they exchanged their weapons belts, which meant that they would fight one another's battles for them.

After the exchange of coats and weapons belts, the representatives stated the terms of the covenant. Then comes the walk of blood. The representatives walked between the two animal halves and stood in the midst of the blood and made irrevocable promises and stated the curse or penalty for breaking the promises.

This part of the covenant rite was very impressive. The sight and feel of blood is an awesome thing, not easily forgotten. <u>Covenants were cut and blood was shed so that the promises would make a deep and lasting impression on the memories of each of the family members.</u>

Also a very impressive procedure, the covenant representatives then cut themselves either on the wrist or the hand in order to mingle their own blood. They lifted their arms so that everyone could see the cuts. They swore oaths by their gods. Either gun-power or some other substance was rubbed into the cut to make the scar that much more outstanding. The purpose of this procedure was to affect the memories of the families. That awesome, ugly scar would forever remind them of the promises that they had made to each other. Then the two families exchanged their names. Actually, they joined. For example, if the Williams and the Burgs made covenant together, from that moment on they were known as the Williamsburgs. In exchanging their names, they also exchanged their friendships.

COVENANT FAITH

One of the primary reasons for studying the covenant is the direct effect it has on our faith.

Many in the Body of Christ think that we are not meant to arbitrarily stand on the promises that apply to the situations in our lives. They believe if God doesn't automatically bless us-that faith alone cannot produce the end result. Those who believe this way do not understand the covenant process. They do not understand that God entered the covenant with us so that we would believe and trust the integrity of His promises. <u>Understanding covenant</u> <u>relationships removes the doubt as to whether God wants us to take His</u> <u>promises seriously. The covenant positions us to boldly stand in faith against</u> <u>any obstacle hurled our way.</u>

Those who do understand the covenant know that God is eager to keep His Word. The covenant is at the forefront of His thinking all of the time, so that the promises will mean as much to us as they do to Him. He has told us to keep His <u>Word</u> in the center of our hearts and ever before our eyes. He has told us to meditate on it day and night, talk about it and think on it continually.

Deuteronomy 30 was written to the heirs of the covenant God made with Abraham. It was made in an effort to give them an unchangeable written statement of God's 'Will' for them and His desire to bless them. He was telling His people that He didn't want them to live under a curse. He wanted them to be blessed, and through His covenant, He told them how they could be.

To be blessed, they had to come out from under the curse. When man fell, God cursed Satan (Genesis 3:14, 15), but because the 'Fall' separated the human race, man came under the curse of his new god-Satan. To enter into the covenant with God meant that they were brought out from under the curse. 'If they would walk in His ways, they could avoid the curse and be blessed.'

'Walking in His ways' has more than one meaning. It not only meant that God wanted them to keep His statutes and obey His commandments; it also meant walking in the 'way of blood' between the animal halves. The way of blood was the most impressive part of the covenant ritual and left an indelible mark in the minds of the covenant partners.

For us, as New Covenant believers, we have a new and living way of blood according to Hebrews 10:20. And we can not only walk in the ways of God; we walk in the way with God. We walk through the Passover portals of the blood of the Lamb that was shed for our sins. That blood is at the forefront of God's thinking. It represents His undying loyalty toward us. It is what Jesus meant when He said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." It is what God meant in Deuteronomy 31:6. "Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." We have nothing to fear, because God's loyalty toward us will never waiver.

All through the Old Testament (Covenant), God was trying to convey to His people how much He loved them and how desperately He wanted to bless them. God's <u>hesed</u> drove Him to find a way to convey His intense desire for His people. The method He chose to convey this message was to cut a covenant with a man name Abram. Since covenants were customary in His day, cutting the covenant with Abram was something he could understand. He was very familiar with the mentality of a covenant agreement.

Abram worshiped the moon and the stars-gods which never reached out to do anything for him. And suddenly, Almighty God reached down from heaven and promised to bless and make him the father of many nations. At that time, Abram was aging and his wife Sarai was barren. It was very difficult for Abram to believe that God was able or willing to bless him so abundantly. Cutting a covenant was the most convincing way God could affect Abram's faith.

The entire covenant is recorded in Genesis 15, 16, 17 and 18. And while the covenant rite did not take place at one time in one place, it included all of the customs of the day. The sacrificial animals were a heifer, a she goat, a ram, a turtledove and a pigeon. The animals were split down the back. A 'way of blood' was paved between the halves. Abram and God exchanged names, promises were made and a blessing and a curse were pronounced. The scar of the covenant was the circumcision of every man-child. And through the covenant, God conveyed the message that He had joined Himself in an <u>irrevocable union</u> with Abram and all of his descendants, for only one reason-to bless him. Abram's name was changed to Abraham and his wife Sarai's name was changed to Sara.

COVENANT LOVE

HESED/AGAPE

Studying the covenant will enable us to grasp an understanding of God's love.

God joined Himself to man in a covenant in order to make His authority, His name, His weapons and His power available to us. He joined Himself in a covenant in order to make a way to pour out His blessings on mankind.

To bless means, "empower one to prosper." In bringing blessings to us through Jesus, God empowers us to prosper in spirit, soul and body. Hesed is the Hebrew word for "love." Because of His hesed, God provides everything we could ever need. He gives because it is His nature to give. Through establishing the covenant, He simply made a way to give.

Galatians 3:6-8 says that the covenant is the gospel and Romans 1:16 says that the gospel is the power of God. Therefore, hesed is the power of God, because the covenant is the demonstration of hesed. God has not only demonstrated his hesed toward us, but through Jesus, He has filled us with His own hesed. Why? So that we can be demonstrations of His love toward one another.

We have been commanded to love one another as He has loved us. In the New Testament (Covenant), the Greek counterpart of hesed is agape.' To translate these words as "love" falls far too short of what these words mean. Hesed/agape' is a statement of the motivation behind everything God has ever done for mankind. It is a statement of His power in creating the world as a home for His beloved family to enjoy. It is a statement of His loyalty in bringing redemption after man sinned. It is a statement of His authority in sending us the Holy Spirit. He loves us so much that He did not leave us to love one another without giving us the capacity with which to do it. He has given us His own hesed, shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost to enable and empower us to love as He loves. That revelation in itself is a statement of what hesed/agape' is all about.

Walking in Love

How we feel is not evidence that we are moving in love. Love is not a feeling but a Person. Jesus was moved by compassion. Feelings put us into the natural realm rather than the spiritual.

When we bring our thought life into obedience to the Word, we have brought it into obedience to love. When we do what the Word says whether we feel like it or not, God is responsible for backing that Word on our behalf and seeing to it that we never fail. Feelings should never be evidence of our love. But as we move in love by faith, the compassion of God will produce the power to meet our needs.

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (I John 4:18). Jesus walked in total confidence because love never fails. His shield of faith quenched every fiery dart of the wicked. He walked away from a crowd that tried to push Him off a cliff. He walked away when others tried to stone Him. The presence of God-Love Himself-was surrounding Him. He never feared what man could do to Him because love kept Him in control. We can have that same control today as we walk in love.

Forgiveness

Unforgiveness stops the power of God. That is why Jesus said we should go to a brother that has trespassed against us and get back in harmony with him. <u>Forgive him and drop the issue</u>, avoid any further confrontation and strife with him. If you continue in the situation, strife will never cease. The great price Jesus paid for our debt of sin far surpasses any reason we would have for walking in unforgiveness.

We can not function in the kingdom of God with power if the law of love is violated. So, in order to live in the supernatural, victorious realm of God's we must purge ourselves from discord, strife and unforgiveness. The following are steps you can use:

- **1.** Confess your sin of unforgiveness. Make a decision to stop corrupt communication from coming out of your mouth.
- 2. As an act of your will, forgive others even as God for Christ sake has forgiven you.
- **3.** By faith, receive the cleansing of your consciousness by the supernatural act of God's power. Do not stay in condemnation.

4. Treat the situation as if it never happened. When God forgives, He forgets (Hebrews 8:12). Blot it out of your thinking, never taking it up again in your thought life.

Praise and Love

Words are the key to our lives. They can start strife and confusion or turn away wrath, bringing peace and harmony. That is why God made this command to the church: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29).

The words of our mouth are more powerful than physical strength. They do more than physical damage and it takes the love and faith of God to heal the wounds.

Harsh words among family members seem to go unattended the most. We speak mainly from habit before we think about what we are saying. The best way to correct this is to stop and give thanks to the Lord and on purpose speak words of love and kindness.

The Holy Spirit is grieved when corrupt communication is present. Strife stops Him from working in our lives and gives place to the devil. Until we become imitators of God as dear children, we will never walk in a place of power. Jesus did only those things that pleased the Father. No matter how the people came against Him, Jesus continued in love, showing compassion in everything He did. He told the disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up the cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). What Jesus bore on the Cross was His to bear for you and me. He bore sickness, disease, poverty and sin for us. But our cross is loving the unlovely. When we walk according to His commands, He hastens to perform the Word in our lives.

It is difficult to talk contrary to the Word when you are giving thanks and praise to the Lord. The devil knows this and he has tried everything he can to stop praise among believers. We need to couple praise with love and God will maintain our right and cause (Psalms 9:3, 4). Roll the care over on Him and He will handle it. Praise and thank Him because He has everything under control.

The best way to build an inner image of the love of God on the inside of you is to take verses four through eight of the 13th chapter of I Corinthians and

meditate on them. Put your name or the personal pronoun "I" in place of the word "charity" (love). You are love because God is Love and He is in <u>you</u>. Jesus is in <u>you</u>. The Holy Spirit is in <u>you</u>. A revelation of this truth will bring your communication in line with Word of God.

Perfecting the Love Walk

The first thing that may happen when you make the decision to perfect the love walk is the opportunity to get into strife. Satan will see to it because he knows that love is the ultimate force that will stop all his maneuvers.

There are four areas in which the believer will never enjoy freedom unless he walks in love:

- 1. Fear of men and what they may do to him
- 2. Fear of Satan and what he may do to him
- **3.** Fear of the curse that came upon the earth at the time of the fall-sickness, disease, poverty, mental disorders and death
- 4. Fear of God-what he will or will not do

The phrase "fear God" means to reverence and respect God, not tremble at the thought of Him. He has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, persuading us that God loves us and wants to be a "daddy" to us. Until we are assured of His love, we will never walk on the Word in faith. We will always be in fear of doing the wrong thing or fear of Him waiting for use to make a mistake so He can punish us. Fear carries torment.

When you make Jesus the Lord of your life and are born again, the love of God comes to reside in your inner man. It is not going to be there someday, it is there now. This love is not human love or feelings but the presence of God Himself. <u>God is Love</u>. <u>Love is a Person</u>. As the realization of this love is developed, faith has a foundation.

Love is not touchy and takes no account of the evil done to it-pays no attention to a suffered wrong.

The devil may bring temptation and persecution your way but you do not have to receive it. If you do not indulge in selfishness (sin), he cannot touch you. He is not to be feared because he is defeated. Greater is <u>He</u> Who is within you then <u>he</u> that is in the world. Glory!



(Example)

Scriptural Reference

I John 5:14, 15

This is the confidence which I have toward him, that, if I ask anything according to his will, he hears me. And if I know that he hears me, whatever I ask, I know that I have the petition which I desire of him

List your Short & Long Range Goals

(God's Part)

Short Range Goals

1. I have discretionary funds totaling \$50,000 in a special account to instantly assist those in need nationwide.

2. I am walking in God's plan for my life

3. My children ______ & _____ are walking in God's plan.

4. My husband/wife ______ is saved and filled with the Holy Spirit

5. My family is walking in divine health

6. My daughter _____ has graduate from UCLA in the top ten percent of her class in <u>year</u>. And has been offered a choice of 5 high paying positions locally in her chosen field.

7. I am free to travel to exotic places and enjoy God's divine creation.

8. I am an instrument of peace in all of my endeavors

9. I am successfully investing in real estate. I am coming across multiple deals daily; buying houses, office buildings and properties that require no money down. 10. I have a mortgage free lavishly furnished home in Clinton, MS. It is 2500 square feet with one story on 1 manicured acre. My home has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and an exercise room. The master bedroom is $18' \times 16'$ and has a fireplace with mantel and walk-in closet. The $14' \times 10'$ luxurious master bath has a whirlpool with two vanities. The combination kitchen/breakfast area is $18' \times 16'$ with ceramic floor covering and countertops; it is equipped with a stainless steel side by side refrigerator, stove, microwave, dishwasher and disposal. My home has a separate den area. It has a 3 car attached garage with appropriate home maintenance tools mounted on built-in wall brackets. The $20' \times 10'$ outside deck is accessible from the den and master bedroom and designed for entertainment. The deck has both wet and dry sinks, refrigerator and grill. The deck furniture is custom stadium seating that will accommodate 25 guests.

Long Range Goals

I am sharing my knowledge and wealth with others to help them realize their hopes and dreams

Covenant Wording

I bind satan and all of his demonic forces that would attempt to hinder my "Blood Covenant." I subject them not to act nor speak against the spiritual formulation or the physical manifestation of any of my goals. I bind them from my family (both immediate and extended), my partner(s), my friends, my finances, my job, my vehicle(s) and from all animate and inanimate objects that I have current & future stewardship over. They have no right or authority in any area of my life.

I loose the angels & ministering spirits, who have been sent to minister for the heirs of salvation, to go forth and bring my goals to pass. With the Word of the Lord that my God supplies all of my needs according to His riches in glory; I license the kingdom of God with all its resources to act on my behalf to judiciously bring my goals to pass.

Exchange

(My Part)

Spiritual - I will spend 2 hours daily meditating and reading the Word of God. I will apply the 4 step meditation process. I will exercise love daily by "absorbing the push-breaking the cycle of dissention and overcoming evil with good."

Physical - I will exercise 1 hour per day. I will reduce my carbohydrate intake and eat more fruits and vegetables

Social/Community - I will research my community's needs and get involved. I will exercise the Law of Use and donate unused items to charity or individuals designated by the Holy Spirit

Giving - I will continue to be faithful with my tithes and offerings. I will give an additional \$100 monthly to 5 ministries chosen by the Holy Spirit

In the Name of Jesus

Your Name

<u>Date</u>



(Form) Scriptural Reference

List your Short & Long Range Goals (God's Part)

13

Covenant Wording

I bind satan and all of his demonic forces that would attempt to hinder my "Blood Covenant." I subject them not to act nor speak against the spiritual formulation or the physical manifestation of any of my goals. I bind them from my family (both immediate and extended), my partner(s), my friends, my finances, my job, my vehicle(s) and from all animate and inanimate objects that I have current & future stewardship over. They have no right or authority in any area of my life.

I loose the angels & ministering spirits, who have been sent to minister for the heirs of salvation, to go forth and bring my goals to pass. With the Word of the Lord that my God supplies all of my needs according to His riches in glory; I license the kingdom of God with all its resources to act on my behalf to judiciously bring my goals to pass.

Exchange		
(Му	Part)	
Spiritual		
Physical		
Social		
Giving		
In the Name of Jesus	Your Name	Date

BLOOD COVENANT

<u>Q & A</u>

Question: What are the advantages of entering into a "Blood Covenant" with God?

Answer: The <u>process</u> of putting the desires of your heart on paper is threefold: First of all, it focuses you, second, it releases your faith and third, it mobilizes all of heaven's resources on your behalf.

Question: Can I make changes to my covenant once it is launched?

Answer: The covenant is a living document and you will think of goals that should have been included initially. It is perfectly alright to add goals. However, changes such as "instead of a BMW, I would prefer a Lexus" is inappropriate. It would be appropriate to add specific features of the BMW you've listed as a goal. Remember, your goals are already initiated in the spiritual realm.

Question: Should I change the specific (\$) amounts of debts as I make installment payments?

Answer: The concept centers on the fact that you want the debt paid in full, the (\$) amounts can remain constant.

Question: Do I need to confess the entire covenant aloud every day?

Answer: Absolutely! "Faith Cometh by Hearing." Not only are your words charging the spirit realm, they are also building your faith level.

Question: Can I change any portion of the two paragraphs in the "Covenant Wording" section?

Answer: The covenant wording is designed to maximize the full potential of your covenant. I highly recommend you not change any of the covenant wording.