



COVENANT

«The Covenant That Began in Heaven»

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❖ A Covenant Built on Faithfulness

A **covenant** is a short word, yet it sometimes carries greater value than thousands of spoken words. Civilizations are governed by laws, but relationships endure through promises and covenants. Trust, friendship, family, marriage, and even faith are built upon the foundation of faithfulness. When a person remains faithful to his word and to the covenant he has made, trust and security begin to flourish in the hearts of others. But when covenants are broken, the walls of trust also collapse. Today, breaking a covenant has become an ordinary practice for many people. People make promises easily, yet they forget those very promises just as easily. It seems that the value of one's word has no longer retained the place it once held. Nevertheless, the Holy Bible introduces us to a God who never leaves any word He has spoken unfulfilled when its appointed time comes. He is not a God who makes a promise today and forgets it tomorrow; on the contrary, His very nature is full of faithfulness. The Word of God declares: **"God is not human, that He should lie, not a human being, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfil?"** (*Numbers 23:19, NIV*) The entire history of the Holy Bible is the story of God's faithfulness to His promises. From the opening pages of Genesis to the final verses of Revelation, a golden thread woven with divine promises runs throughout Scripture. Every one of these promises has either been fulfilled at its appointed time or is awaiting the day of its fulfilment. Therefore, the Christian faith is not founded merely upon emotions or personal experiences; rather, it is built upon the promises of a God whose faithfulness never fails.

❖ God Is the One Who First Established a Covenant with Humanity

God's first great covenant was given at the darkest moment in human history. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into the world, it appeared from the human perspective that everything had come to an end. The relationship between God and humanity had been broken, sin and death had gained dominion over the world, and hope was fading away. Yet at the very moment when mankind deserved judgment, God revealed His promise of salvation. He said to the serpent (Satan): **"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel."** (*Genesis 3:15, NIV*) Many Christian theologians regard this verse as the first proclamation of the Gospel in the Holy Bible. This promise was given centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ and foretold the coming of the Saviour who would destroy the power of sin and Satan. After that, God repeated His promise time and again. He promised Abraham that through his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed (*Genesis 12:1–3*). Centuries in advance, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed: **"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel."** (*Isaiah 7:14, NIV*) A little later, he wrote: **"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given... And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace."** (*Isaiah 9:6, NIV*) All of these passages point to the coming of Jesus Christ into the world as the Saviour. These promises were not merely beautiful words; rather, they were divine promises that God Himself committed to fulfil. From a human perspective, waiting four hundred—or even a thousand—years may seem like a very long time. Yet God never confuses His appointed timing with forgetfulness. He will surely fulfil everything He has promised at the time He has determined. When the fullness of time had come, God remained faithful to His promise and sent the Saviour of the world. **"But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."** (*Galatians 4:4, NIV*) The renowned Christian theologian Charles H. Spurgeon said: **"God's promises never grow old, because His faithfulness never grows old."** What great assurance and peace it is that those who believe in Jesus Christ can build their lives upon the promises of a God who never lies, never changes, and never goes back on His word! If God fulfilled His promise concerning the coming of Jesus Christ after centuries had passed, then without doubt He will also fulfil His promise concerning His glorious return.

❖ The Promise We Make to God

God is the One who first gave His promise to humanity. In response, mankind is invited to answer His infinite love with the whole of their being. Believing in Jesus Christ is not merely accepting a few divine truths or repeating a few sentences in prayer; rather, it is the beginning of a sacred covenant between a person and the living God. The moment a person surrenders his heart to Christ, he is, in fact, declaring: **"From this day forward, my life no longer belongs to me; it belongs to the Lord who gave His life for me."** The Lord Jesus Christ said: **"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."** (*Luke 9:23, NIV*) Following Christ is a lifelong decision. The same God who remains faithful to His promises until the very end also expects faithfulness

from His disciples. Faithfulness to God reveals its true value when life does not go the way we desire. It is easy to call God our Lord in days of blessing; but true faithfulness is demonstrated when we refuse to let go of His hand even in the midst of life's storms. The writer of Hebrews says: **"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."** (*Hebrews 10:23, NIV*) Andrew Murray says: **"The whole Christian life is built upon confidence in God's faithfulness; the deeper that confidence becomes, the stronger a person's faithfulness will be."** Whenever we resist temptation, whenever we choose truth instead of falsehood, whenever we choose love instead of hatred, and whenever we continue to follow our Lord Jesus Christ despite every hardship, we are, in fact, remaining faithful to the promise we made to Him on the very first day. At times we may stumble like Peter; yet God does not require perfection from us. He desires a repentant and faithful heart—a heart that says every day: **"Lord, I want to continue following you until the very end of the journey."**

❖ **The Marriage Covenant: A Sacred Covenant Made in the Presence of God and a Reflection of the Relationship Between Christ and the Church**

One of the most beautiful examples of the concept of **covenant** in the Holy Bible is found in Christian marriage. According to Scripture, marriage is not merely the union of two people or the signing of a legal contract; it is a sacred covenant made in the presence of God. From the very beginning of creation, God established marriage upon this covenant: **"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."** (*Genesis 2:24, NIV*) The Lord Jesus Christ also said: **"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."** (*Matthew 19:6, NIV*) During the marriage ceremony, the husband and wife make a promise before God and the church that they will remain faithful to one another for the rest of their lives—in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in poverty. This covenant is founded not merely upon emotions, but upon a deliberate and sacred commitment. The Apostle Paul writes: **"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her."** (*Ephesians 5:25, NIV*) Christian marriage is a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Just as Christ has never abandoned His Church, husbands and wives are likewise called to live in love, forgiveness, and faithfulness. Through the prophet Malachi, God declares: **"...The LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth... She is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant."** (*Malachi 2:14, NIV*) What a beautiful expression! God refers to one's spouse as **"the wife of your marriage covenant."** This clearly demonstrates that marriage is, before anything else, a sacred covenant rather than merely an emotional relationship. Saint Augustine said: **"A home built upon the love of God and faithfulness will stand firm against the storms of life."** One of the greatest crises in the world today is the loss of the value of covenant and faithfulness. Yet the Holy Bible teaches us that love nourished by forgiveness, humility, and the grace of God can blossom again even after the most difficult days.

❖ **Faithfulness: The Fruit of Living Faith in Jesus Christ**

The Holy Bible repeatedly reminds us that God expects His children to be trustworthy and faithful men and women. The Lord Jesus Christ said: **"All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."** (*Matthew 5:37, NIV*) God does not ask us to prove our integrity by making many oaths. Rather, His desire is that our lives be so filled with righteousness, purity, and honesty that people can trust our words without the need for any oath, seeing integrity both in what we say and in how we live. Solomon also says: **"It is a trap to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider one's vows."** (*Proverbs 20:25, NIV*) These verses teach us to think carefully before making a promise and, once we have given our word, to remain faithful to it. A. W. Tozer said: **"Faithfulness in small things is the greatest evidence of spiritual maturity."** God is not looking for people who have gained fame; He is looking for people who are faithful—people who remain faithful in their families, in their ministry, in their work, in their friendships, and in every covenant they make.

❖ **The Greatest Covenant That Is Yet to Be Fulfilled**

When we read and reflect upon the Holy Bible, we see that God has either fulfilled every promise He has made or will certainly fulfil it at the appointed time. Yet there is still one great promise that the Church continues to await: the glorious return of Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ said: **"Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am going there to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me."** (*John 14:1–3, NIV*) Moreover, on the day He ascended into heaven, the angels said: **"...This same Jesus, who has**

been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.” (*Acts 1:11, NIV*) The final promise of the Holy Bible is: **“Yes, I am coming soon.”** And the Church responds: **“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”** (*Revelation 22:20, NIV*)

The Christian life is, in reality, lived between two great covenants. God’s first covenant was His promise to send us the Saviour. That promise was fulfilled through the birth of Jesus Christ, His death on the cross, and His resurrection. Then came the promise that this same Saviour will return again in glory and majesty. During the time between these two promises, our responsibility is to remain faithful to our covenant, to preserve our faith, and never allow the light of our hope to grow dim. The days of waiting may seem long; yet the God who fulfilled His promise concerning the first coming of Jesus Christ will surely fulfil His promise concerning His second coming as well. No power can prevent God from accomplishing anything He has promised. Therefore, every time we remain faithful to the promise we have made, we are, in fact, reflecting to the world the character of the God who never breaks His covenant. Our faithfulness is our response to His faithfulness, and our hope is founded upon His promise—a promise that will never fail. May it be that when the King of Glory returns, He will find us still faithful to our covenant, so that we may stand before Him with a faithful heart, an unwavering faith, and a living hope, and joyfully say: **“Lord, You remained faithful to Your promise, and by Your grace, we also remained faithful to the covenant we made with You.”**

If we were to summarize the message of the Holy Bible in a single sentence, we could say this: **God is the God of covenants and promises.** He is the God who speaks, who remains faithful to the promises He has made, and who expects His children to be faithful men and women in return. The history of salvation began with a promise—the promise that the Saviour would be sent. That promise was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Today, the hope of the Church is founded upon another promise: the promise that this same Saviour will return a second time. Between these two promises, God calls us to build our lives upon faithfulness. He calls us to be faithful in our faith, in our families, in our ministry, in our words, in our responsibilities, and in every covenant we have made before Him. In a world where unfaithfulness has become commonplace, the faithfulness of a believer can become one of the strongest testimonies to the Gospel. Often, people read our lives before they read the Holy Bible; they see our faithfulness before they ever hear our preaching. For this reason, every promise kept with integrity and every covenant preserved in love reflects the character of the God who never breaks His covenant. Remaining faithful may not always be easy. At times, remaining committed to a covenant comes with a heavy cost; at other times, faithfulness requires forgiveness, patience, tears, and sacrifice. Yet the Lord never asks us to do something for which He Himself has not first provided the perfect example. He first demonstrated perfect faithfulness to us, and then called us to walk in the same path. Therefore, let us ask ourselves these questions every day: Are our words trustworthy? Have we remained faithful to God, to our families, to our friends, and to the responsibilities entrusted to us? Are we still faithful to the covenant we made with Jesus Christ on the day we first believed in Him? Our prayer is that when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in His glory, He will find us not only as those who believed His promises, but also as servants who remained faithful to the covenant we made with Him until the end of our lives. Then we will hear the greatest reward from His lips: **“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”** (*Matthew 25:21, NIV*) Blessed will be that day when every voice of this world falls silent, and for all eternity only one voice echoes within our hearts—the voice of the Lord, saying with delight: **“Well done, good and faithful servant...” — Amen.**

Charles H. Spurgeon said: **“God’s faithfulness to His covenant is a hope that never disappoints, because He never goes back on His promises.”**

