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Approaching the Father without Fear

“What does God think about me?” This is a question I’ve asked myself multiple times throughout my life. I’m sure we all have pondered this. Usually for me, it would come with self-examination of how good I’ve been doing personally. When I was younger in the Lord, I always felt disconnected from God; I would begin every day feeling distant and undeserving of Him. My insecurities distorted my desire for His approval and love which then pushed me to find a pathway to be acceptable.

I grabbed a hold of an answer that came from a wrong doctrine and began using areas of busyness in serving Him as a subtle offering to be accepted. The more active I was, the safer I felt to approach God. Even then at my busiest, I still never felt good enough. When I would walk into His presence, I would first list all of my good things as reasons for Him not to be disappointed in me. I would tell of all my good works and sacrifices to gain His approval. I was always so timid in His presence even though the scripture tells us differently. “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,” Hebrews 10:19

At that time, I had heard a lot of teaching on the covenant that we have with God, and this was the foundation of my relationship with my Heavenly Father. The word “covenant” actually means “cut of blood” where two parties would join together in a contract where everything I have belongs to you, and everything you have belongs to me. If you go to war, then I go to war with you, and your enemies are my enemies. We are joined together by this agreement as long as the statutes of the covenant are met. I gain all the same benefits as you but if there is any failure to keep up your side of the agreement then the contract is broken. These covenants begin with the shedding of blood; some men would slice the palm of their hands and then shake hands to seal a commitment to each other.

I was taught that we have a covenant with God, and that is what gives me my rights to everything He is. My foundation of faith was built on my ability to keep up my end of the agreement. I never questioned God failing me but believe me I had many concerns about me failing Him. I could never be at peace with my Heavenly Father because of a constant worry of falling short.

We can see God’s covenant with different men throughout the Old Testament and even though God never failed, man failed each and every time. With Abraham, the Lord had him shed the blood and lives of five animals to seal his covenant. (Genesis 15). Noah’s offering also included the blood and life of animals to signify his covenant with the Lord. (Genesis 8:12)

With Moses we can read of him sealing his covenant with God in Exodus 22:5-8 "Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

We could continue with King David, Saul, Adam, Israel, and so many more examples of God walking in covenant with men. Always with the principle that it is only intact as long as both sides stay true to it, yet in every case, we see how man failed and God did not! Inside of me, I knew that I would not be able to be perfect especially in my younger years. So what was I to do in such an unstable relationship? How could an imperfect creature like myself ever stand in confidence in front of a perfect and beautiful God? I could ask for forgiveness and be washed clean by His love, but still, that was only temporary until I had an evil thought or emotion rise up and I failed again.

Thank God for Jesus because He made it possible for His Father to become my Father. God is smart and observant, and He knew that men could not be trusted to hold up perfection forever continually. He found a way to establish a covenant that would never be broken. My life changed and I was set free by learning the following scriptures; Galatians 3:10-12 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." In this scripture, the Apostle Paul is making it clear that the only way to God is faith and any attempt to establish a relationship with Him through keeping the laws of the covenant are futile.

Next, in verses 13-15, Paul speaks of how Jesus became our lamb, our sacrifice of His blood and His life so that we now can have a relationship with God built upon faith in Christ and not of our ability to fulfill the Levitical law. "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it."

Then he beautifully writes how Jesus is the seed that the promises were made to and it is through Him we can also inherit those same promises; "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the

law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.”

Finally, the apostle discusses the topic of mediation, and in it, he describes how unique Jesus is. He describes how Jesus is now the mediator between Himself and the Heavenly Father, but yet in an incredible miracle, they both are one! “Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.” Galatians 3:20

Can you see how our promises of God are still settled on a foundation of a covenant where both sides must continue to uphold their ends of the agreement, or the covenant itself is nullified and void? Yet now because Jesus came to fulfill the law and become the lamb of God as our blood sacrifice the covenant is not between God and me, it is between God and God; it is between Jesus the son and the Heavenly Father, both who are one! It will never be broken again and is settled once and for all, forever, for all of eternity. My relationship with my heavenly Father began on this foundation of family; it was through Jesus that I gained access to God not through a covenant; I was born into His family. I begin each day with this security of a relationship that I am loved by my Father in Heaven. The desire to pursue holiness and my devotion to God comes from this love and from this love I am busier for God’s kingdom than I ever was when my motivation was fear. Jesus has the covenant with the Heavenly Father, you and I have a family because of Jesus. Jesus made it possible for His Father to become your Father so that can now we can run boldly into His throne room without fear.

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