“New Covenant People”

Individual Study Introduction

After listening to the audio segment, use the following questions as your time allows. You may want to record your answers or jot down thoughts and notes in a personal journal. You may also want to use your journal as a record of your prayer time with God. Write out your prayer or simply record your requests and the areas of your life you are releasing to God. This written record will help you to watch God’s movement in your life. You’ll see more clearly the ways God is giving you “strength for the journey”!

Getting Started:

Joe Stowell reflects on the time when he was given a pass to the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

• What was the most exciting or special sporting event, concert, stage production, or performance you can remember attending?

• What did you have to do to get a ticket or a pass to the event? Can you draw a connection to our relationship with God, just as Joe had to “actualize the privilege” of using his pass to the Masters?

Strength through Scripture:

1. Read Jeremiah 31:31–34; Luke 22:19–20; and Hebrews 10:15–18. “Free at last! Free at last! Thanks to God Almighty at the cross, we are free at last!” How does it make you feel to know that the new covenant guarantees that we will be declared innocent and that there is no longer any need for animal sacrifices for the forgiveness of our sins?

2. Joe refers to the Holy Spirit as the facilitator of the new covenant, saying that if the Spirit indwells us, we must be sensitive to Him when He speaks to us. (Note also 1 Samuel 3:9, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening”—and John 10:27, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”) On a scale of 1 to 10, how closely are you listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, which leads us to intimacy with Christ?

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

Luke 22:20b
3. On those occasions when someone confronts you or upsets you, how likely are you to stop and listen to Jesus in the Person of the Holy Spirit?

4. Joe states that since the Holy Spirit is the facilitator of the new covenant, we are not to quench or grieve Him (see 1 Thessalonians 5:19 and Ephesians 4:30). How do you think Christians most often fail in that regard?

5. If you have listened to all the messages in this series on the new covenant, what point stands out to you the most? How will your life be different because of it?

**Digging Deeper:**

If you have enough time, answer one or more of these optional questions. But be sure to save time for the final two sections.

1. What does Joe mean when he claims there has never been a season of belief in the history of God’s work on this planet that has been more privileged than this season of belief in the era of the new covenant?

2. Read Galatians 5:16–26. How does this passage fit in with Joe’s statement that “You can tell a new covenant person a mile away—by the character of Christ that emanates from his life”?

3. Read John 7:37–39. How did the Jewish ritual on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, in which seven priests poured out seven large buckets of water on the altar of the temple, add great drama to Jesus’ words and great significance to John’s commentary about them?

**Strength through Reflection:**

1. How are you treating the Holy Spirit? Are you actualizing the privilege of tapping into the reservoir of the Holy Spirit waiting to be released through you? What keeps you from doing so more than you are?

2. Is there a person you love to hang out with because of the way the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) is reflected in his or her life? In what way would you like to be that kind of person?
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Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments in prayer. Thank God for pouring out the Holy Spirit as the agent of the new covenant. Commit yourself to tap into the power of the Holy Spirit by listening to and obeying Him.

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

“Heavenly Father, I thank You for the intimate relationship You offer through the agency of the Holy Spirit. I want to do more than just appreciate the privilege of being a new covenant person; I want to actualize that privilege by allowing Your Holy Spirit to flow in and through my life. May I hear, obey, and respect Your Spirit—and may I never quench or grieve Him.”

Closing Call to Action:

Like a water faucet that is backed by phenomenal pressure just waiting to be released, if you’re a believer in Jesus Christ, if you’ve been to the cross—then you’ve got the reservoir of the Holy Spirit waiting to be released through you.

How are you treating the Holy Spirit? The Bible clearly says that we are not to quench the Holy Spirit. He is that fountain of living water. Quenching the Holy Spirit means to quench His voice and not listen to Him. Grieving the Holy Spirit means to disobey Him and to bring grief to His heart.

Do you want to keep the spigot closed and merely be a decoration on the sink of Christianity? Or do you want to flow with the power of God and truly be a new covenant person—where you tap the power of the Holy Spirit by listening to Him, obeying Him, and, as Jesus said, letting the rivers of living water flow from your life?

There’s the challenge. Welcome to the joy of being a new covenant person!