

# Prayer Life

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Part 3 - covenant

# Prayer Life - review

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- The purpose of this series is to lay a foundation for a successful, effectual Prayer Life.
- Success is not measured in goosebumps or a feeling.
- Effectual prayer is not measured in length and volume.
- Success is measured in answered prayer.
- Abiding is the foundation of a successful prayer life.

## Prayer Life - review

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- John 15:7 – If you abide in Me, and my word abides in you, you will ask whatever you will, and it will be done.
- You can't abide without getting answers, and you can't get answers without abiding.
- Jesus did it. We need to do it.
- It's a day after day, feeling or no feeling, habitual relationship with God.

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Prayer originates with God.

Psalm 27:8 (nlt)

My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."

And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming."

# covenant

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## Definition:

A usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement:  
compact; contract.

In Bible Days – an agreement sealed with blood.

## Synonyms:

- Agreement
- Commitment
- Warrant
- Pledge
- Promise
- Bond

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## Ways to cut the covenant

- Cut arms and suck the blood out of each other's
- Cut an animal in half and walk between the parts
- Cut themselves and let the blood drip into wine and drink it
- Cut wrists and clasp hands, therefore mingling the blood signifying unity.

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Facts about covenant:

- The covenant was cut and sealed with blood.
- They exchanged personal effects.
- Exchanged names.
- Raised right hand and spoke terms (blessings and curses).
- Made scar or incision that could be seen as a sign of the covenant.
- Ate a covenant meal together
- Planted a covenant tree.

# covenant

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- Covenant was binding, serious, unbreakable.
- If you broke covenant, it was punishable by death.
- Demanded unswerving loyalty.
- Spoke of sacrificial love and loyalty and faithfulness.
- Sacred (entitled to reverence or respect).

# covenant

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## What Covenant Means:

- All you are and all you have is mine. AND...all I have and all I am is yours.
- The same covenant that provides everything for you requires everything of you.

Example:

Marriage

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Why do we need covenant?

Hebrews 9:22

Under the law, it's almost the case that everything is purified in connection with blood; without the shedding of blood, sin cannot be forgiven.

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What happened to man as a result of the fall?

- Genesis 3:1-24 (Story of the fall)
- Died spiritually (from alive to God to dead to God)
- Now had sin nature/consciousness
- Turned from God being Lord to devil being Lord.
- We were now ruled by sin instead of life.
- Eternally separated from God.

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- Approach to God was lost.
- Fellowship was lost
- Intimacy was lost.
- Adam passed the sin nature down to all man.  
(Romans 5:12)

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## Genesis 3:15

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.”

- Crush your head = break your lordship.

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What happened to God as a result of the fall?

- He lost fellowship with His creation.
- Sin awoke in God the need for justice. His holiness was violated.

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Sin is determined opposition to a holy God. It not only can but must awaken His wrath. While it was God's desire to continue in love and friendship with man, sin has compelled Him to become an opponent. Although the love of God toward man remained unchanged, sin made it impossible for Him to allow man to have fellowship with Himself.

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It has compelled Him to pour out upon man His wrath instead of His love. The change that sin caused in His relationship to man is enormous.

--Andrew Murray, *The Power of the Blood of Christ*

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## Covenant in the Old Testament – the sacrifices:

- There were 1273 public sacrifices every year.
  - Every morning and every evening
  - The first day of every month
  - During special feasts
- Personal Sacrifices
  - Millions of people. Millions of sins.

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Hebrews 9:12

He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

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In Covenant Jesus became our:

- Atonement: Reparation for a wrong. (1 John 2:2)
- Forgiveness: Let the offense go as though it had never been committed. (1 John 1:9)
- Propitiation: Turn away God's wrath by satisfying His violated justice. (Romans 3:25)
- Approach, fellowship, and intimacy were restored.

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## Genesis 3:22-24

And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

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## Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

# covenant

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- The blood didn't leave us in our sin.
- The blood restored approach.
- The blood didn't leave us at the cross, although we need the cross.
- The blood took us through the cross up into the Most Holy Place.