

Solution to Study 0060

New Covenant Era Worship: Introduction (2)

6. Today, the ‘Promised Land’ is seen as the physical acquisition of certain promises, rather than what it really is—heaven! Hence, many people in our churches are focused on earthly acquisitions, as a sign of God’s blessings, rather than God’s spiritual and heavenly blessings. *But, what is the scriptural view on the blessings of the believer in Christ?* (Ephesians 1:3; 2:6; Luke 12:15; Matthew 16:24-26; Luke 16:19-25; Matthew 19:16-29; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Romans 14:17; Hebrews 11:32-40).

The blessings of the believer in Christ are:

- (a) Heavenly; that is, of heaven and from heaven.
- (b) Eternal, but can begin here on earth.
- (c) In Christ; not in a church, nor with men.
- (d) Not measured by how much we own or possess.
 - i) being rich is not a measure of a close and prosperous relationship with God (3 John 2)
 - ii) earthly wealth is to be used to store up treasures in heaven, as we distribute and share of what God has given us here on earth, with the needy.
- (e) Things that money cannot buy, and include righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The men and women of the Hall of Faith, who have departed this world, are still waiting to receive the promise of eternal rewards which God had promised them, because they are waiting for us to come to heaven, and indeed, for the first resurrection, so that they and us can be rewarded at the same time!

7. Many of the people in our churches today don’t understand God’s way of doing things, so often times, they miss out on the promises of God—both the earthly and heavenly promises. They thus, end up wandering from place to place seeking from men, what can only be received from God! *What does the bible say about God’s way of doing things, and how we can know it?* (Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33-34; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; Jeremiah 6:16; Romans 8:5-8; 12:2; Matthew 16:21-26)

- (a) God’s way of doing things and His thoughts are:
 - i) Not like man’s way and thoughts.
 - ii) Far higher than man’s way and thoughts.
 - iii) Unsearchable (beyond tracing out; impossible to understand)
- (b) God’s way and thoughts are known by:
 - i) The revelation of His Spirit to those who have His Spirit within them; not those who have the spirit of the world, or those who are natural in their disposition.
 - ii) Our stopping or ceasing from doing what we are doing (which is not of God), and taking out time to ask God for direction and His will.
 - iii) The mind which has been renewed by the word of God.

8. Israel of old could not enter into the Promised Land because of their unbelief (**Hebrews 3:19**), in much the same way, many of today's Christians are unable to enter into God's earthly and eternal promises because of unbelief! They seek to receive things from God in every other way, except by faith. *What is scriptural faith and how does it apply in our daily lives?* (**Hebrews 11:1-40; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 4:17-18; James 1:5-8; Romans 14:23**)

Scriptural faith is:

- (a) Acting on the word of God, without any physical evidence.
 - (b) Trusting/depending/relying on the power of God rather than on human wisdom.
 - (c) Living by what God says (the word of God), rather than by what we can see, know from science, the newspapers, predictions of the 'pundits', or what is tradition and custom.
 - (d) Looking forward, with anticipation, to what God has said in spite of the contradictions that we may be experiencing on the matter. It is therefore an active expectation that what God has said would come to pass even though it does not seem to be possible.
 - (e) The unwavering trust/belief in God, that what you ask of Him will be given to you by Him. This means that we wait for God, and not seek to get it ourselves or our way, when it seems to us that God is delaying in bringing it to pass.
 - (f) Based on a personal relationship with, and an experiential or intimate knowledge of, God and His will for our lives.
9. Many of the people in our churches today consider the sanctuary of God, to be the building where worship takes place, and are not able to appreciate that their physical body is also a sanctuary of God. Hence, for such people God can only be worshipped in the place designated as the sanctuary in their minds—a physical building. They pretend to be holy when they are in such a place of worship, but engage in all manner of sinful acts with the sanctuary of God, which is their body, outside the physical place of worship. *The bible has some words of admonition for such a lifestyle. What is it?* (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:15-20; 1 Peter 1:13-19**).
- (a) Our bodies are temples of God, and should not be defiled.
 - (b) Flee fornication or sexual immorality of any sort.
 - (c) Glorify God in your body, just as you glorify Him with your spirit.
 - (d) Live a holy life in every area and aspect of your life (personal, marriage, home, business, vocation, leisure, etc.).
 - (e) Live as strangers in the earth, in the reverential fear of God. Don't be at home with the world system, or with the way they live and do things.

Review

Again, we arrive at the point where we must go over what we have had to study this week, and seek to apply it to our lives. What concrete steps are you going to take henceforth, to begin to live as a New Covenant worshipper, which you are, if you are indeed born again? And if you are not born again, would you at this time wish to do so?