



Dec. 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

Recently, the Lord has been speaking to us about the difference between cohabitation and covenant. Covenant says that I'm in this relationship because of what I can give. Cohabitation says that I'm in this relationship because of what I can get. Cohabitation is self-centered—the participants want intimacy without covenant, benefits without responsibility and relationship without commitment. But that has never been God's way. Throughout the bible, we see God as a covenant-making and covenant-keeping God. He entered into covenant with mankind (Noah, Abraham, Moses and David) knowing that we wouldn't and couldn't keep our end of the covenant. That is covenant—God entering into an intimate relationship with mankind because He has something to give—His very life! We see God's faithfulness in this. He will remain faithful to the covenant even if we aren't.

The word covenant means “to fetter or chain together, to cut”. Covenant is the greatest commitment that two people can share. When the Lord established His covenant with Abraham, a flaming torch passed twice through the halves of the animals Abraham sacrificed, which signified that God Himself would keep the covenant and He would be the reason Abraham would fulfill his part of the covenant. Abraham slept through the covenant ritual,¹ but that didn't mean he wouldn't have any responsibilities concerning the covenant, as we see in these passages:

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Heb 11:9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

Heb 11:11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

Abraham had to receive and believe the covenant promise—he had to walk in faith. A covenant without faith is powerless. Heb. 11:6 says that without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. We see this principle so clearly with Noah—it was not the ark that saved Noah and his family, but it was the covenant.

Gen 6:18 "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you."

Noah had a responsibility to respond in faith. He had to believe what God told him. Faith in the covenant God made with him. Not faith in himself or his sons or the ark. God established the covenant. He gave Noah the plans for building the ark, brought the animals to the ark and even closed the door after Noah entered (Gen. 7:16).

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned *by God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

The covenant promises God made with Abraham and Moses were passed down through the generations. Covenant is what saved and sustains us today! It is because of the covenant between Christ and His Father that we have eternal life. Our salvation is secure not only because Jesus died for our sins, but because His death was part of a covenant with His Father. He suffered, bled and died because of the covenant He had with His Father! He is the only human who has ever kept covenant with God perfectly—with no sin. That was the terms of His covenant with His Father—He must live His life perfectly as a man. He must refuse to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which is how Adam and Eve sinned. He must only do what He hears His Father say and do only what He sees His Father do. He must live a life of faith—faith in His Father. And faith in His Father meant that He would have to willingly offer Himself up as the perfect sacrifice. And, if He did, mankind would be offered the opportunity to enter into that covenant and find

forgiveness of our sins. Not a life of cohabitation (self-seeking), but covenant—laying down my life for the benefit of others. Dying to self. And, as a result, we would find life eternal and so would others.

We are saved because of the covenant between God and His Son. Christ did it all. He paid the price. And now eternal life is a free gift, but it will cost us everything—in the same way it cost Christ everything. Like Abraham, Noah, Moses and King David, we have a responsibility to the covenant. We are to follow the Lamb.

Jesus hung on the cross and cried out, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46). There have been a number of times in my life where it *felt* like God had forsaken me. But, each time faith in the covenant words of Christ steadied my fearful heart. He said in Matt. 28:20 “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” And also Heb. 13:5 “*Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.”*”

The faith of Jesus and His covenant with His Father never wavered. In the very face of *feeling* that God had forsaken Him and not even being able to remember why, Jesus knew His Father would be faithful to their covenant. So, into the hands of the Father whom He couldn’t feel, hear or perceive, He cried out with a loud voice and said, “Father, into your hands I commit My Spirit.” Having said this, He breathed His last (Luke 23:46).

We have the privilege of that covenant and with that privilege comes responsibility. Faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love. The kind of love that willingly lays down one’s life for the benefit of another. Covenant love. Not cohabitation. I believe a good question to ask the Holy Spirit living inside of us is: Am I truly in covenant? Or am I just cohabitating? In Luke 9:23, Jesus said to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” That’s covenant—I’m in this relationship because of what I can give—not what I can get.

Jesus told His disciples, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). True to His covenant, Jesus laid down His life. He now invites us to follow Him and do the same (Matt. 16:24). We are God’s family. We might not always like where He leads or who He brings onto our paths, but we are called to be true to the covenant. And that requires faith, hope and love. And because of the covenant, we won’t quit when the going gets tough or when our flesh rises up in rebellion. We will remain true to the covenant. After all, we are following the One who remained Faithful and True even when He was led to the cross.

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

2019 TRAINING SCHEDULE

All trainings are offered on a donation basis.

- God Encounter Training is 9AM-5PM Friday and Saturday. This is the #1 method used on Our Father’s Farm to cultivate an intimate, experiential relationship with God. These encounters with God heal the deepest trauma and transforms the human heart.
- Advanced Training begins on Sunday evening with orientation dinner at 6PM and goes through 5 PM Friday. This training is so much more than equipping facilitators for God Encounter sessions. The training includes daily classes based on biblical truths plus receiving and practicing God Encounter sessions in a small group with a trained facilitator.
- Housing and meals are provided on a donation basis. We do limit the number of attendees—please register early.

2019 TRAINING DATES

GOD ENCOUNTER TRAINING: March 8-9
ADVANCED TRAINING: March 24-29

GOD ENCOUNTER TRAINING: Sept. 6-7
ADVANCED TRAINING: Sept. 22-27

GOD ENCOUNTER TRAINING: May 3-4
ADVANCED TRAINING: June 2-7

Register Now at: harvesthome.org or for more information email: cindy.grove@harvesthome.org

*Visit our online bookstore at: www.harvesthome.org
Harvest Home, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) organization (#43-1723890)
Your gifts are tax deductible and greatly appreciated ☺*

Phone: 816-522-9011