

Blood Covenant Truths: Lesson 14 – New Covenant Completion (8)

Lesson 13 looked at the cutting of the flesh and its significance in our relationship with God. Now let's continue our study by looking at step nine, the exchange of names. The significance of this in our lives is the truth that we have been made, by genetic renewal, into actual children of God. We are now part of God, we have total access to and intimacy with God (Father, son and Holy Spirit), we are the body of Jesus, we are seated with him in the heavenly places, we are his brethren, and we have dominion over all things. This lesson looks at the influence and impact of this truth on our daily lives.

Step 9. Exchange of Names. This covenant ceremony step solidifies the reality that when two people (or groups of people) make a blood covenant, from that point on they have a shared identity. Their names become synonymous with each other and each has the full rights and responsibilities of the other's name. This is actively seen in the marriage covenant. The original reality of marriage is that the couple becomes one in every aspect. The man leaves his parents and is joined to his wife. They become one entity. Their names are changed to be the same such that addressing one is addressing both. Each one can speak for the other and that word is binding on both. Their possessions, livelihood, activities, responsibilities and relationships become shared. Unfortunately, the selfishness that operates in this fallen world has destroyed the correct understanding of marriage to the extent where the modern expectation is that couples have individual ownership, accounts, activities and interests, rather than the oneness and intimacy that is intended in marriage. A blood covenant relationship is a total union between the two parties and the exchange of names gives each party total rights to whatever the other party has. The exchange of names means each party has total representation for, use of and rights to, the respect, authority and resources of the other party.

When we become partakers of the New Covenant, as individuals, we and God become one. This reality plays a big part of our exercising dominion in this natural world. Wherever we go and whatever we do, that is where God goes and what God does. We walk in his authority and power with the respect, resources and importance of His name fully delegated to us to use. What an awesome privilege and responsibility; yet we have failed to make use of this in our daily lives. The following study is designed to expand your thinking and behavior to start seeing and employing the rights of your new name.

Read **Genesis 14:18-20**. What did Melchizedek call Abram: _____

In Hebrew this full name is three words: Abram (aleph, bet, resh, mem) El (aleph lamed) Elyon (aleph lamed, yud, ain, nun). The literal translation is 'Abram God Almighty'. Notice there is no "of the" as inserted by the English version translators. Melchizedek called Abram by his covenant identity as Abram God: giving Abram the last name (surname) of "God". This was Melchizedek (Jesus before he had a human body) acknowledging that Abram was in covenant with God and thereby had all of God's favor and resources at his disposal.

Read **Genesis 17:1-8**. What did God say "is with Abram" (v4)? _____

What did God do to Abram's name (v5)? _____

What Hebrew letter did God add the Abram's name? _____

From your Hebrew pictogram sheet, what is the picture and meaning of this letter? _____

In Hebrew, God's personal name is yehweh (Yud Heh Vav Heh). In renaming Abram to Abraham, God joined his name with Abram's fulfilling step 9 of the covenant ceremony. This exchange enabled God to make Abraham exceedingly fruitful and the father of our faith.

Now let's look at how Jesus saw himself. The key passage for this discussion is **John 10:24-39** where Jesus identifies himself as being one with Father. Read this passage and answer the following questions.

John 10:24. What do the Jews want to know about Jesus? _____

What was Jesus' immediate answer (**v25**): _____

What things bore witness that Jesus is the Christ (**v25**)? _____

What is the characteristic of Jesus' sheep (**v27**)? _____

What makes you one of Jesus' sheep? _____

What does Jesus give his sheep (**v28**)? _____

What cannot happen to Jesus' sheep (**v28**)? _____

What did Jesus declare about Father (**v30**)? _____

According to John 5:43, what name did Jesus come in? _____

What does Jesus declare about you, Father and him in **John 17:11 & 22**? _____

What did the Jews try to do to Jesus (**v31**)? _____

Why did they want to stone him (**v33**)? _____

Notice the Jewish understanding of being one, meaning being united in covenant. It meant that the two identities are the same, their names are the same and their ways are the same. Jesus statement that He and Father are one had a profound impact on the Jews. It shocked them to their core because they could not comprehend God being connected to or indwelling any man. Yet Jesus clearly told them he was God and by doing so that he was the Christ that the law and prophets said would come. This is the true understanding of being one. So when Jesus states in John 17 that he makes us one with him and Father, think about what that makes you. Everything they are, you are. You have their name and everything that goes along with that name!!!!

How did Jesus try to convince them that he is the Christ (**v34-38**)? _____

Did this satisfy the Jews (**v39**)? _____

Since Jesus and Father are one, they have exchanged names. So the identity of Father belongs to Jesus and vice versa. So now that Jesus, as a man, has the fullness of God and his name, he declares to us that since we are one with him we have the full rights to the use of God's name and all the power, wealth and position behind it. Let's look at how Jesus explains this privilege in **John 16:22-28**.

What day is Jesus referring to in **verse 23**? _____

What were the disciples to do once they saw Jesus again? _____

What did Jesus promise the Father would do? _____

How does **verse 24** say they should ask? _____

What promise did Jesus give if they asked this way? _____

Why should they ask and receive? _____

Why does this promise apply to you? _____

In **verses 25-28** Jesus goes on to explain to the disciples his unity with the Father and repeats the instructions to ask in his name. Notice how he says your request goes directly to Father who responds because of his love for you. Jesus doesn't have to ask on your behalf, you get to ask directly for yourself. Because of the covenant we are part of, using the name of Jesus to ask is identical to asking in the name of Father and we say it directly to Father. When you ask, Father has already answered and given the request.

Now read **Philippians 2:5-11**, Notice in verse 6 that the mindset that Jesus operates from is one of equality with God (Father). The Greek word for "form" is 'morphe' which Strong's concordance translates as "*shape, nature or form*" and the word "equal" is 'isos' (pronounced: ee'sos) which Strong's translates as "*similar in amount or kind, agree, as much, equal and like*". Jesus knew that he and Father were one, having been that way since before the world was created. Verses 7 and 8 then expound on the mindset that Paul is telling the Philippians should be in them. This is the mindset of humility. Paul explains it as Jesus being totally willing to give up his deity to become a man and suffer death for us at the request of Father. True humility is total selflessness. Paul is telling the Philippians to reject selfishness and their own performance and to rest solely on God's supply, to have the same mindset as Jesus. This mindset of humility, the rejection of all self effort, is the key to being led by the Holy Spirit in living the new covenant lifestyle.

Now answer the following questions from **verses 9 to 11**:

What did Father do to Jesus? _____

In what three places must every knee bow to Jesus? _____

What must every tongue confess? _____

One result of Jesus' selflessness was his exaltation by Father. Oh, what glory Father has received because of what Jesus has done and what honor he has given to Jesus. When we connect the exaltation and glory of Jesus with what the Bible says about us, we get insights into what God has planned for us. For example, **1 John 4:17b** says "As he (Jesus) is, so are we (present tense) in this world". Father has exalted us in Jesus, giving us all of his fullness, his name, his glory and his power. Because we have Jesus' name, we are incredibly blessed by God.

Read **Philippians 2: 12-13**. Notice that Paul says obeying God is "working out your salvation". It is important to understand what this statement means, because the traditional teaching is that by your effort (your work) you show that you have been born again. However, such an interpretation puts the responsibility back onto man to perform, which goes against the gospel of grace. So what is Paul really saying? Using scripture to interpret scripture: what does Jesus define as "the work" we are supposed to do? It's found in **John 6:29** as "*that ye believe on him whom Father has sent*". Then in **Hebrews 3:18-19 and 4:11**, it states that we enter into God's rest by believing on Jesus. So I put to you that "the work" is "believing on and resting in Jesus and the completed work he did on the cross". Doing this is what results in the manifestation of full salvation: living free from the curse in all areas of your life. **Verse 13** reinforces this when Paul states that "*it is God who works in you...*". It's not your performance or abilities, it's believing on Jesus, resting in his supply and letting God produce the results in you. **Verse 13** states that those results are His good pleasure.

Write out **Romans 8:15**. _____

The KJV states “...received the Spirit of adoption...” where the Greek word translated adoption comes from two root words that translate as “made” and “child”. The verse is saying that the day you were born again you were made into a literal child with the parents’ genes. This shows the full extent of the covenant step of the exchange of names – we are made children of God with his genetics and are known by His name. That is what a true heir is, one who has the parents’ genetics and identity as shown in having their name. **Romans 8: 16-17** continues this concept by showing that Holy Spirit is proud to declare we are his children, with the same inheritance that Jesus received when he rose from the dead.

Now list some of what you think is included in your inheritance: _____

Now write out **Galatians 3:26**. _____

What made you a child of God? _____

According to the next verse (27), because of your faith in Jesus you were placed (immersed, baptized) into him. Then Paul follows this statement of reality with the truth that having been baptized, you “have put on Christ”. This is two Greek words: ‘enduo Christos’. Strong’s concordance defines **enduo** as “to invest with clothing (literally or figuratively): - array, clothe (with), endue, have (put) on”. The blood covenant step of exchange of names adds depth to this truth by reinforcing that you have been arrayed and endued with Jesus and his anointing; the fullness of his dominion, life, abundance, fruitfulness and operation. His name is yours to use and everything must obey that name.

Write out **Colossians 2:12**. _____

This verse also declares the truth of your being buried (Gk ‘sunthapto’, which means ‘united in burial’) in Jesus by baptism (immersion, placing) and then you were raised with him. God was able to raise Jesus because of Jesus’ faith; “...of the operation of God (KJV)”. Jesus faith is what activated the power of God to raise him from the dead. Verse 13 builds on the reality of what Jesus faith did by stating that while you were dead in your sins, you were quickened (make alive, revitalize) together with him. Everything that was done for Jesus when he was raised from the dead was also done for you. Jesus was made sin when he died, so he was raised out of sin, glorified by Father, given a name above every name and restored to the fullness of God. The same thing was done for us. You now have your heavenly Father’s name as your name and all the rights of a child of God; the same rights that Jesus has. Now you understand what Jesus was saying when he told us “*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it*”. **John 14:13-14**. It’s time to use the rights you have in your new name to change this world.